



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Police Step up Patrols at Day Street Park

By Steve Steinberg

Local police have placed Upper Noe Recreation Center, the block-long city park at Day and Sanchez streets, under a surveillance of sorts, because of two disturbing incidents that may have involved gang members.

According to San Francisco Police and Recreation and Park Department employees, for the past several months groups of young men, ages 12 to 17, and numbering anywhere from 10 to 20, have been congregating in the park, mostly in the afternoons and evenings.

By and large, the teens just hang out and talk. But on at least one occasion in February, they attempted to rob a 10-year-old boy of his bike at knifepoint. Then in early March, a woman with two small children was robbed and assaulted by two juveniles on Dolores Street, a couple of blocks from the park.

There were arrests in both cases, and police are not sure whether there is any connection. However, they have increased their daily rounds of the park since the incidents. And Upper Noe staff has been instructed to be on the lookout for suspicious behavior, and to keep the park under lock and key after 10 p.m.

Troublemakers May Not Be Local

Who are these young men, and where do they come from? Opinions differ.

Police Officer Ed Collins, one of the beat officers who has been asked by his superiors at Ingleside Police Station to

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The Last Days of March allowed Valley residents a view of nearly every kind of weather. Rain turned to hail and then to sun as temperatures rose to the 70s. But just as non-joggers started wearing shorts, a turn-up-your-collar wind blew over the hills, chilling and reminding us that while in San Francisco, you're never too far from goose-bump city. Our hiking photographer focused through the clear air toward Bernal Heights and the Bay beyond, while standing on one of Noe Valley's western peaks. She dressed in layers. Photo by Pamela Gerard

How to Become a Sex Hotline Volunteer

By Denise Minor

Alan Blackman appears to be a genteel, well-educated bachelor passing gracefully through the middle years.

He spends most of his evenings at home, listening to recordings from his vast classical music collection while working on intricate lettering commissions for his business as a calligraphy artist. In the background, his pet rabbit hops quietly about his 24th Street apartment near Castro.

His days are divided among various responsibilities and hobbies, including teaching calligraphy (he taught for 20 years at the Academy of Art College) and perusing the used record stacks at Streetlight Records down the block.

But Blackman leads what some might call a double life.

As president of San Francisco Sex Information (SFSI), a sex information hotline, he spends at least six hours a week on the phone, answering people's questions about sex.

"I suppose most people I know wouldn't

dream that I lead this other existence," says Blackman, who has lived in San Francisco 22 years, eight of those in Noe Valley. Ten years ago, he adds, running a sex information hotline would have been unfathomable, even to him.

Blackman's involvement with SFSI began in 1989 when he was listening to rock station KRQR in an attempt to broaden his musical tastes. That evening the radio station broadcast a talk show hosted by sex therapist Isadora Alman, who's famous for her regular *Bay Guardian* column, "Ask Isadora."

"I tuned in and couldn't believe it," Blackman says. "Here she was talking about oral sex, and everything else, over the air."

Alman mentioned the city's sex hotline and the fact that it was starting a training class for new volunteers. Blackman called the number and learned that the classes were being held on three weekends and a few Wednesday nights.

"I looked at my calendar, saw that I had those weekends and evenings free, and decided that this was ordained," he says.

Blackman, who is in his 60s, had always considered himself to be shy and extremely reserved about sexual matters.

"In my upbringing, sex was never to be discussed," says the native New Yorker. But the hotline training exercises helped him to open up.

More importantly, he learned a great deal about human sexuality. "I learned, for instance, how prevalent masturbation is in our society," says Blackman. "Most people assume that once they get married, masturbation is some sort of childish behavior that they're supposed to put behind them. And when that turns out to not be the case, they feel bad about it."

He also was surprised at the popularity of sex surrogates, licensed professionals who are trained to initiate people into sex, or to help them work through sexual fears and inhibitions.

"A session with a surrogate might involve only kissing, or it might involve a full sexual encounter," Blackman explains. "This could be very helpful for

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TV Detective Nash Bridges Visits His Ex-Wife in Noe Valley

By Kathy Dalle-Molle

Tanya Bednarski says she and her husband, Greg Johnson, don't watch much TV, but one show they won't miss is *Nash Bridges*, the new detective series starring *Miami Vice*'s Don Johnson, which premieres Friday, March 29, at 9 p.m. on KPIX (Channel 5).

That's because Bednarski and Johnson's home, located at 3824 21st St., will be featured in the premiere episode, as well as in several of the 12 additional episodes being filmed in and around San Francisco.

Actor Don Johnson, who is also one of the show's executive producers, told the *Voice* he handpicked San Francisco — where he first studied acting as an 18-year-old at the American Conservatory Theater — as the series locale.

"Why not? San Francisco is only perfect," he says. "If you have to work, San Francisco is the place to be, and Noe Valley is one of my favorite areas to shoot. It's a beautiful neighborhood."

Johnson plays the title role in *Nash Bridges*, which he describes as a character-driven police drama, with more depth than the average TV series.

"*Nash Bridges* is not just a solve-the-case-of-the-week cop show," he says. "Nash is not unlike a lot of baby boomers. He's in his 40s, he has two ex-wives, a teenage daughter, and an aging parent who suffers from Alzheimer's."

"Nash's personal life gets in the way of his business sometimes," adds Nina Russo, the show's production designer. "He's

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- ☛ Earn Money While Eating Like a Pig
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- ☛ Nude Girls on 24th Street!
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A Novel Idea: Park in the Garage**Editor:**

I can understand why many Noe Valley residents are eager to have a Residential Neighborhood Parking Zone in the area [“Residents Push for Parking Permit Zone Around 24th Street,” February 1996 *Voice*]. But before another parking zone is created in San Francisco, I think the Traffic Department should correct one great flaw in the existing program.

As things now stand, any San Francisco resident with a valid license can apply for a residential parking permit. Permits are granted to residents who have garages and/or driveways, and who do not need a place to put their cars.

Many people in San Francisco use their garages as storage spaces or as workshops, which makes it impossible to get a vehicle into the garage. Others live in buildings that have no garages, and if they have a car, they are forced to park on the street.

I believe that parking permits should be issued only to persons who have no garages. Persons who are able to use existing garages or driveways should not have the added luxury of parking permits.

The current program is self-defeating. Parking permits should go to persons who truly need them, and not to people who have other uses for their garages.

William Bernell
Collingwood Street

Neighborhood Safety Starts at Home**Editor:**

Your story on the end-of-the-year crime surge on 24th Street [March 1996] was certainly a watered-down version of the night that many brave residents weathered one of the worst storms of the year to come to a SAFE meeting. Fifty people attended the meeting, but only about five represented the merchants of 24th Street, whose businesses had been burglarized. Where were the other merchants who were victims?

Perhaps it is easier to just give in, give the thieves what they want, and “get on with our lives.” It is unfortunate that this idea seems to prevail until someone gets killed. Then the story changes to something like: “How many people have to be killed before a stoplight is put in at that intersection?”

I would suggest to your readers that the next time you see a “crime alert” flyer announcing a SAFE meeting, you make haste to that meeting.

Regarding your other story [“Tree Protest Fails to Halt Bulldozers on Sanchez Hill,” March 1996]: I was very sorry for the trees and the people of Sanchez Street. They did not get “f-----over,” however; they did that to themselves by voting certain people into office, namely the last two mayors. Their appointees on the Planning Commission and the Board of Permit Appeals should be required to have their addresses published. Maybe then they will have to swallow some of their own medicine.

I have so often seen the Board of Permit Appeals approve plans they know nothing about! This board will allow an ultramodern, multi-story building go up in the middle of a block of turn-of-the-century Victorians, giving no thought to the surrounding residences. If this board is allowed to continue, we will have a Northern Los Angeles right here in our own back yard. The residents of Sanchez Hill should definitely take the city to court and investigate whether there are ways to sue those individuals who ignore the law.

Jim Anderson
Twenty-fourth Street

LETTERS 32¢

Plenty of Places to Park on Jersey Street: Former Noe Valley resident Ted Lossman, who now lives in Pacifica, Calif., sent us this 1930s photo of 246 Jersey St. (facing east). “I thought you might be interested in seeing the parking situation then versus today,” he wrote. No thank you, Ted. It’s far too painful.

The Split Over Sanchez Hilltop**Editor:**

In the March issue, our neighbor and friend Florence Holub wrote, in her usual delightful column, about Dolores Heights, the area surrounding the hill at 21st and Sanchez.

In the middle she asserted in passing that a “silent majority” of the neighborhood’s residents supported the large houses proposed by developer Seamus McGee for the Sanchez hilltop. We cannot imagine where Florence got her information on this issue. It is simply and completely wrong.

The Neighbors to Save Sanchez Hilltop painstakingly surveyed those who lived on every single parcel within 300 feet of the property—in every direction. Only 32 percent supported the project, had no opinion, or had no response. The rest, over two-thirds, opposed the proposed project entirely or partly, on account of its massive size and scale, which seemed totally out of character with existing homes in the neighborhood.

It is precisely because most residents oppose the development that the fight continues to save this last special hilltop, or at least to improve the results of construction on it.

Alice and Bill Russell-Shapiro
Twenty-first Street

One of the Silent Majority**Editor:**

It was, as always, a treat to read Florence Holub’s column in the last issue [“On the Street Where We Live,” Florence’s Family Album, March 1996].

As a longtime resident of Noe Valley, I especially appreciated reading an unbiased article about the Sanchez Hill project. Florence Holub had her facts straight. And it was a pleasant change to read a fair reporting from someone who actually lives in the neighborhood.

After a thorough investigation, I am dismayed at the misleading information put out by some of the protesters. Protest signs such as “How many more hills do we have to give away?” distort the truth.

I wasn’t aware that the 21st Street lots belonged to us, the neighbors. These lots have been privately owned as far back as

I can remember. They were never a place where one could walk around and enjoy the view. Would it be appropriate to take a stroll in a private back yard? I think not.

I totally support Seamus McGee’s plans to build four beautiful homes on his lots at Sanchez and 21st Street. Mr. McGee and his sons have shown remarkable patience through the continuous obstacles thrown in their path.

Hopefully, building will begin soon.

A longtime 21st Street resident

P.S. Please do not use my name due to the meanness of the protesters.

Florence Holub responds:

I am writing in reply to the Russell-Shapiros’ letter concerning my March column, but first I want to thank Alice and Bill for graciously sending me a copy and giving me an opportunity to defend my position.

I must confess that my numbers are based on a small sampling of our neighbors, and I’ve assumed that I still enjoy the overall support I had 17 years ago when working on the creation of the Dolores Heights Special Use District.

Those residents with whom I have discussed the matter share these views:

- The lots have been for sale for a long time.
- A developer bought them.
- The proposed buildings conform to the Dolores Heights Special Use District requirements.
- The Planning Commission approved the plans.

That should settle it, but to make sure I was not off base, I phoned some of the architects who have advised City Hall regarding the district over the years.

It just so happens that they had already gone to see the plans for the homes described by the protesters as “monsters,” and were surprised to discover that they were not bad at all. These respected professionals were able to find no objectionable features.

We must not forget that the purpose of the Special Use District has always been to allow suitable growth and to prevent unbridled growth, meaning highrises. Without it, that’s what we would attract.

In the late ‘70s, when we were cam-

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paigning to have the city adopt the guidelines, we also knew that we must not abuse the privilege, or we would lose the protection altogether.

So, good neighbors, let us be wary, but also be fair and take care.

I believe that if our diplomatic leader, Audrey Rodgers (whom I write about in this month’s column), had lived, this divisive situation never would have developed. Sadly, it reminds me of Newt Gingrich’s Contract with (or on) America, where the Young Turks are dismantling the order that the Old Guard created.

But I do appreciate the opportunity to express my views, which reflect the original intentions of the Special Use District. And although we see things differently, I thank you, Alice and Bill, and certainly hope and trust that we shall always remain friends and good neighbors.

Florence Holub
Twenty-first Street

Voice Mail

The *Voice* is eager to receive your letters to the editor, for possible publication in future issues.

Write to the *Noe Valley Voice*,
1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco,
CA 94114. Or send brief e-mail correspondence (no long manuscripts, please) to jaxvoice@aol.com.

Remember to include your name, address, and phone number, so that we can contact you if we have questions. Note that letters may be edited for clarity and conciseness. Unsigned letters (anonymous notes) will not be considered for publication.

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Police Keep an Eye Out for Gang Activity at Upper Noe

Continued from Page 1

step up patrols near the park, maintains that the troublemakers are not local, but rather a group of kids who ride the 24-Divisadero bus line and stop off in Noe Valley on their way to and from home in other neighborhoods.

Collins noted, however, that the increased police presence in the area was already serving as a deterrent. "They don't seem to be getting into that much trouble now," he said in mid-March.

Still, the young people's very presence in the park over the past few months has intimidated other park goers.

"Anytime you have numbers [of young people] gathering like that it causes problems," said a recreation center regular, who preferred not to be identified. He pointed out that the incidence of graffiti had also escalated since the youths began coming around.

In fact, Parent Advocates for Youth, a consumer group that conducts an annual survey of the city's parks, recently reduced Upper Noe's grade in terms of overall quality from a *B*- to a *C*. The watchdog agency said the center appeared to have more graffiti this year, and cited the lack of a viable teen program as a possible cause.

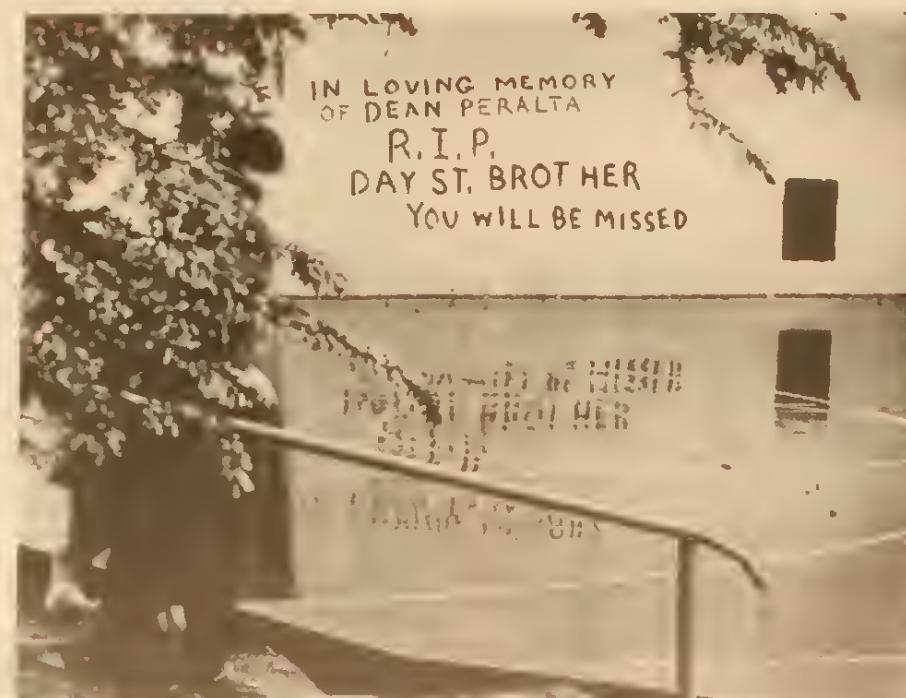
Over the years, Upper Noe has had periodic difficulties with groups of teens and young adults hanging out at the park late at night, drinking and behaving in a rowdy way. But many of those young people have now grown up or moved away, so that problems associated with drinking have not been a significant concern of late, recreation staff said.

Gang Connections

This new group of teens may be different. They may not be just transients jumping off a bus, or neighborhood kids celebrating a kind of rite of passage by breaking the rules about drinking.

Ingleside Police Sergeant Lou Perez asserts that the majority of the young men currently congregating at the park are Noe Valley locals, but with a twist: most of them are either gang members or have ties to Mission District gangs. And, adds Perez, they have brought some of their buddies from outside the area with them.

Perez, who is a founder and leader of the station's gang task force known as HIT — for High Crime Impact Team — said that the mere fact that the young men were gang members should not be a particular cause for alarm.



This epitaph appeared on the walls of Upper Noe Recreation Center a day after Noe Valley resident Dean Peralta died suddenly March 3. Though his death coincided with a police crackdown, it was not connected to recent crime in and around the park. Photo by Charles Kennard

"They [the young men in the Upper Noe group] do not necessarily wear gang colors. They do not necessarily try to intimidate other people in the park," said Perez.

But their behavior during the last week in February may signal a nasty shift.

Two Incidents Send up a Red Flag

According to Perez, one afternoon during that week, a 10-year-old boy was riding his bike in the area when two or more of the youths who had been hanging around the park tried to wrestle the bike from him, wielding a butcher knife in the attempt.

The boy, who just happened to be the son of a police dispatcher, managed to get away. Arriving home, he told his mother what had happened. She immediately called police, who promptly dispatched Sergeant Perez and his HIT group.

Perez said the unit surrounded the park and arrested two suspects, one inside the park and another closeby. The two suspects were positively identified by the victim. The knife was recovered in the park by officers.

Police fears about a gang presence in the neighborhood increased dramatically, however, after a more serious incident that took place March 8.

That evening, according to both Officer Collins and Sergeant Perez, a young mother was returning to her home in the 1400 block of Dolores Street with her two small children in the back seat of her car. Opening her garage, the woman drove in and was placing her children in a stroller when she was accosted by two juveniles.

The young men demanded her money. After she complied, handing over her purse, one of the assailants allegedly tried to sexually assault her. Fighting back, the woman was then beaten by her assailants.

In the attack, police said, she was knocked back against her children, injuring one of them.

The attackers then fled the scene, but were arrested a short time later on Duncan Street while trying to break into a parked car. Officers heard the description of the two assailants come in on their police radio while making an arrest for the car hoisting.

The two juveniles, one of whom was only three days shy of his 18th birthday, were subsequently identified by the assault victim.

According to Perez, they were charged with assault to commit rape, assault on a police officer, burglary, conspiracy, and receiving stolen property.

At press time, Perez did not know whether the older juvenile would be charged as an adult.

The juveniles were both members of a Latino gang known as the L & S gang, Perez said.

Park Security Tightened

Back at Upper Noe Rec Center, at least one other young person has had a run-in with possible gang members. Eleven-year-old Zack told the *Voice* he was riding his bike on Day Street near the park last fall when several older boys grabbed the handles of his bike, pushed him off, and stole his bike.

He did not report the theft to police, and apparently the bike was never recovered. "Now I don't take anything to the park that can be stolen," he said.

Another park regular, 14-year-old Bobby, who likes to play basketball on the outdoor blacktop, said he had noticed several young adults sitting around and drinking beer in the park's bleachers, but he had not been bothered by them.

In the meantime, both police and

Dean Peralta, Rest in Peace

Visitors to Upper Noe Recreation Center, also known as Day Street Park, may have noticed a graffiti tribute on one of the walls last month. The words read, "In loving memory of Dean Peralta. R.I.P., Day Street brother. You will be missed."

The spray paint was in honor of Dean Peralta, who died suddenly March 3 at the age of 42.

Peralta was a member of a large family that lived in the neighborhood.

According to police reports, shortly after midnight on March 2, Peralta and a female companion went to visit a friend in the 1600 block of Dolores Street. As the woman knocked on the door, she heard a loud thump and turned to find that Peralta had fallen to the ground. He was apparently dead at the scene.

The San Francisco medical examiner's office said the case was still open and that the exact cause of death had not yet been determined, although the office had found no evidence of foul play.

Police said there appeared to be no link between Peralta's death and possible gang activity at the park (see story, page 1). □

Recreation and Park officials insist they are taking measures to ensure safety in the park.

Perez said officers were making frequent walkthroughs of Upper Noe and making arrests for such offenses as marijuana or weapons possession.

"We are identifying gang members and kicking them out of the park if they are engaged in illegal activities.... We'll keep doing it until there is no longer a problem," he said.

That tactic may be working. Recreation and Park staffers say fewer numbers of the group in question have made an appearance in the park since police began their sweeps at the end of February.

In addition, Rec and Park Supervisor Don Ybarreta said he had instructed the Upper Noe staff to close the tennis courts on weekday nights. He also installed a new gate and lock on the 30th Street side of the park, to "make it as difficult as possible to gain [unauthorized] access" after closing time.

Park hours are 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. weekdays, but it closes at 6 p.m. on Saturdays and 5 p.m. on Sundays.

The public can help, Ybarreta said, by calling the police if they see any suspicious persons hanging around the park after the center has closed. □

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In early February, a film crew from *Nash Bridges* shot a scene at the old farmhouse on the corner of 21st and Sanchez, which was slated for demolition to make way for new housing. The episode was about a deranged tenant who was planning to kill the mayor. Photo by Leo Holub

Don Johnson's New TV Series Shoots Here

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a workaholic, but he really cares about his family. He's still involved with his ex-wives, and he has a child he has to be responsible for."

Ruscio and a team of location scouts toured several San Francisco neighborhoods and visited 15 houses before finally selecting Tanya Bednarski and Greg Johnson's 1906 three-bedroom, two-bath Victorian as the home of Lisa, Nash Bridges' first ex-wife, and their 15-year-old daughter Cassidy.

"They were out walking around the neighborhood in October and ended up knocking on my door," says Bednarski. "They looked around and took pictures and we didn't hear anything for quite a while, and then in late November they said they were considering the house. The weekend after Thanksgiving, eight people came to look at the house and then the next week, 25 people, including the director, came to see the house."

Although Bednarski says she and her husband were flattered that a film crew wanted to use their home, they were a bit wary at first and decided to consult a friend who works for NBC.

"She told us there are two rules when dealing with television producers," says Bednarski. "Never sell your life story, and never let a film crew into your house! We listened to her tell us about all the possible problems, but we really thought we could manage the inconvenience."

Crew Invites Neighbors for Coffee

So far, the show has filmed at the home three times, and Bednarski is still smiling.

"We've not been put out at all," she says. "Everyone has been very professional and respectful of our space and house. We remodeled last year, and now all this time and money we put into the job is paying off. It's a novel feeling, having a film crew use your house. It's something that doesn't happen every day."

Bednarski, Johnson, and their 2-year-old son, Ryan, make themselves scarce when the crew comes to set up—which usually takes a half a day—and during shooting, which has lasted up to 12 hours.

"There's a catering table in our garage and computers and sound equipment and 50 people milling around the house," says Bednarski. "They let us know a week

ahead of time that they're coming. They also slip notices under neighbors' doors to alert them. They've really seemed to integrate into the neighborhood well. They even invited neighbors for coffee in our garage one day to meet the crew, and a lot of neighbors showed up."

The show only shoots in the front yard, back yard, and on the first floor of the home—the kitchen, breakfast alcove, living room, and Bednarski's office, which Bridges' ex-wife also uses as an office to run her catering business.

"We thought the character of Lisa would reside in a place like Noe Valley," says Ruscio. "It's a warm safe neighborhood, a good place for a professional single mother. We chose this house because we liked the open living room and kitchen setup, and the view of the city from the living room and breakfast alcove."

Bednarski and Johnson's living room is sparsely furnished with wicker and metal end tables and a cushiony couch and chairs. The kitchen is modern, and Bednarski's office is painted a dark salmon color and contains a simple wooden desk and chair.

The show uses most of Bednarski and Johnson's furniture, but during filming adds pictures to the living room walls and a hutch and a throw rug in Bednarski's office. A set decorator also created blinds for the living room window and changed the chandelier and brought in a different coffee table.

"The place really looks like Lisa lives here," says Bednarski. "They put their own notes and pictures and Chinese restaurant menus on the refrigerator and write their own notes on the white board we have in the kitchen. They even bring in mail for her."

Bednarski says she's only seen a bit of the filming. "I saw them film Don Johnson driving up to the house and Annette O'Toole [who plays Lisa] cooking breakfast, and I met both of them briefly."

Other Locations in Noe Valley

In mid-February, just prior to its demolition, the old farmhouse at 21st and Sanchez streets owned by Seamus McGee (developer of the large housing project on Sanchez Hill) was also used as a set.

According to the plot line for that episode, scheduled to air sometime in April, a deranged woman who lived in the house was building bombs and planning to assassinate the mayor.

"We chose the site because of its decrepit state," recalls Ruscio. "There are so few rundown houses in Noe Valley, and it was strange to find this home in such a sweet neighborhood."



This house is gonna be famous! This house is gonna be in pictures! Thanks to the hospitality of owners Tanya Bednarski, Greg Johnson, and son Ryan, the 1906 Victorian at 3824 21st St. will be a regular setting in Channel S's new TV series *Nash Bridges*. Photo by Nojib Joe Hakim

The crew has also shot a scene where Nash Bridges meets up with a drug informant in Dolores Park.

According to Ruscio, filming has been under way since mid-December, but she hopes to include more Noe Valley locations before shooting wraps up in May.

Although her permanent home is in Los Angeles, Ruscio is residing temporarily in an apartment on Vicksburg during shooting.

"I picked Noe Valley to live," she says. "And I'm already a regular at Martha & Brothers Coffee. We'd like to shoot on 24th Street. There's an automotive garage there that has a great look, and we'd like to use Miss Millie's window with the huge teapot in it."

"I like the look of that place. I love the views and steep hills of the neighborhood. It's a good 'hood.' □

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Find Out Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Sex

Continued from Page 1

some people, such as, for instance, a 40-year-old man who is a virgin and is so ashamed of it that he cannot get involved in a relationship.

"We've had some surrogates participate in our training sessions," he adds. "Some are straight, some are bisexual. Some are married and have families. And they are the nicest people."

Blackman also learned more about the practice of sadomasochism. "I'd always thought that people into S&M were brutally sadistic," he says. "But that's not the case. People involved in S&M relationships have to have a very deep trust of one another. It can be very spiritual."

At the end of his training, Blackman realized that he was not as reticent about sex as he'd imagined. "It amazed me to find out that I was actually very good on the phone," he remarks.

As a volunteer educator, Blackman learned how to present accurate, nonjudgmental information about human sexuality, ranging from facts about anatomy and birth control to topics such as prostitution and sexuality for the disabled.

"I wish there had been something like this around when I was growing up," he says. "It might have saved me a lot of pain and confusion. For instance, when I was in high school, I was ambivalently attracted to males as well as females. At that time, those feelings were seen as some sort of sexual deviation. I was almost suicidal."

After working for two years as a volunteer, Blackman joined SFSI's board of directors and was put in charge of the monthly newsletter because of his experience in graphic design. Years before, he had studied anthropology as a graduate student at Oxford in England, and then gone on to become art director of the Anthropology Museum at U.C. Berkeley. Along the way he attended the California College of Arts and Crafts and launched his current career as a calligrapher.

Then, 2½ years ago, SFSI's president resigned, and the job fell to Blackman. "Nobody else wanted it," he laughs.

The hotline was created in 1972 by three health professionals. Two other free sex hotlines existed in those days—one in New York and the other in Los Angeles, Blackman notes. But one closed down, and the other now has an automated answering service.

Until recently, San Francisco's hotline was also losing business. There were some evenings, Blackman recalls, when the volunteers and their supervisor just sat around chatting and taking care of paperwork because they received no calls.

But that all changed in February when *Glamour* magazine ran a small article about the service, written by Los Angeles-based sex educator Janet Leaver. Leaver later told Blackman that she'd found out about the San Francisco hotline from her friend Joani Blank, proprietor of Good Vibrations, a sexuality boutique and bookstore on Valencia Street.

According to Blackman, Leaver complained to Blank that she could not find a good sex advice phone line. She had tried calling the Masters and Johnson hotline in Chicago, but got lost in the maze of their automated phone lines. When she finally got through to a live counselor, she received only mediocre advice. And the call cost her \$8.



Calligrapher Alan Blackman, cuddling pet rabbit Brigitte, doubles as a sex counselor and president of San Francisco Sex Information, a hotline for questions about our favorite subject.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

Leaver took Blank's suggestion and tried San Francisco Sex Information. She then told *Glamour*'s readers that they could get free information about everything from sexual orientation to sexual problems and solutions, from volunteers who had gone through 55 hours of training.

"This is more training in sexuality than most medical students receive," she noted, adding, "when we called anonymously and posed a variety of questions to 'road test' the service, we were impressed with the quality of the answers given."

On the heels of Leaver's story, the *San Francisco Examiner* ran a piece about SFSI, and since then the phones have been ringing off the hook. In fact, the increased volume of callers has put the hotline in desperate need of new volunteers. The organization's spring training session begins this month and runs through May.

"The *Examiner* story apparently got picked up by the wire service, because we've been getting calls from all over the country," says Blackman.

"The last time I worked, I got a call from a man in Grand Prairie, Texas, who is 59 years old, has been married since he was in his 20s, and has never had sex with anyone but his wife. He wanted to talk about something he's never been able to say to anyone his whole life—he's fascinated by seeing other men nude in the locker room, and he was afraid something was wrong with him because of that. We talked for a half hour."

Many people are worried that they are not normal, says Blackman. "We get calls

from people saying things like, 'I want to be slapped by my girlfriend during sex. Am I normal?' or 'I've had sexual fantasies about my mom. Am I normal?'"

He assures them they are.

The calls that most often leave Blackman upset are those from women in abusive relationships. "Some of these men will treat a woman horribly, have sex with her and be very critical of her body," says Blackman. "But the woman will hang on because she's afraid of being left alone."

In those cases, Blackman does his best to convince the woman to see a counselor. He hangs up the phone with his fingers crossed, hoping that his advice will be heeded.

Many callers are adolescents who are confused about their sexual feelings or just hungry for knowledge. Blackman believes that the youngest caller he's ever had was a boy around 12 years old who matter-of-factly began asking him for definitions of explicit sexual terms.

"I gave him his answers, and then asked, 'Where are you getting all this?' It turns out that he and his friend had found a gay pornographic magazine and wanted to know what it was talking about."

The hotline frequently gets calls from teenage boys who want to initiate sex with their girlfriends but don't know how. "One boy called for advice while his girlfriend was supposedly lying in the other room," Blackman says with a smile. "But with young boys, you can never tell when they're kidding."

Blackman, who has long been sepa-

rated from his wife, has a grown son and a 5-year-old grandson living in London. He says he often wishes he had been able to speak more openly to his son about sexuality when he was growing up.

"I couldn't talk to him about sex, and it's really too bad. Now he's 38 years old and lives in another part of the world."

Parents of young children, however, might get a considerable boost in their ability to communicate with their kids about this important matter if they get involved with San Francisco Sex Information. "It will teach them how to bring up subjects with their children, and will make them aware of the wide range of sex behavior humanity encompasses."

The hotline, (415) 989-SFSI, is open from 3 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday. During the six hours, the service receives about 20 calls, says Blackman. The hotline currently has a staff of 50 volunteers, who are asked to commit to one three-hour shift a week for six months.

Interviews for the spring training will be held April 3 and 10. The training itself will take place April 17, 20, 21, and 24, and May 4, 5, 8, 18, 19, and 22, with an average class size of 30 people.

Blackman says he hopes he'll hear from some Chinese and Spanish speakers, because the service often gets calls from people most comfortable in these two languages. He also hopes to develop greater outreach into African-American and Hispanic communities in the coming year. □

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San Francisco Sex Information is a nonprofit service and does not accept government funding. Because it operates on a shoestring, volunteers are asked to pledge \$195 when they sign up for training. Anyone who wishes to take the 55-hour training but not become a volunteer, Blackman adds, can do so for a pledge of \$395. To ask for an application, call the hotline, 989-SFSI (7374).

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POLICE B E A T

Robbers Take a Holiday, Then Go Back to Work

By Officer Lois Perillo

The good news is that the series of armed robberies occurring January through February in Noe Valley involving the same suspects appeared to have ended on Feb. 9. There were no more reported robberies during the month of February.

The bad news is that two attempted and two completed robberies occurred in my part of Noe Valley March 6 through 13.

On March 6 at 7 p.m., a 30-year-old man who was walking west on the south side of 24th Street toward Guerrero was approached by three men in their late teens or early 20s. One man said, "I have a gun, give me your money."

As the suspects pushed the targeted man into the street, he threw his wallet into traffic to stymie their robbery efforts. The man was then punched in the face as he fought with the suspects, possibly injuring one of them. He recovered his wallet and was checked by paramedics, and then taken home by the police.

It Can Happen Here

On the same day at about 11 p.m., a man described as 25 to 30 years old stopped his white car on the east side of Douglass between 21st and 22nd streets and asked a 37-year-old male pedestrian for directions to Market Street. He then

attempted to rob the pedestrian by brandishing a gun.

The suspect also told his victim, "Don't leave or I'll knock you over the head," but the pedestrian responded by yelling loudly and running north on Douglass. When he turned to confirm that he was not being pursued, he fell and injured his knee. However, he saw the suspect's vehicle, which also carried a female passenger, back up and flee eastbound on 22nd Street.

Since I wasn't the reporting officer, I didn't have contact with the targeted man until he phoned later to report his frustration at being accosted, after just having read about the recent robbery series in last month's *Voice*. He said he felt informed by my Police Beat, but initially dismissed its application to him. Now he was kicking himself for not being suspicious until it was too late and being unable to get a good description of the suspects' car. "I wasn't on alert, so I didn't really pay attention," he said.

But in my view he won the encounter. He did what he had to do to limit harm to himself. The community responded to his cries; a nearby resident came to his aid and walked him home.

Carry a Lighter Load

On March 7 at about 9 p.m., a 56-year-old woman who was walking eastbound on 25th Street, across Douglass, was robbed of her waistpack by a 20- to 30-year-old man who asked her for directions to "Doey" Street. When the woman questioned the street's name, the suspect grabbed her pack, which was slung over her shoulder. As she resisted, he pushed her backwards and she fell, injuring her left side and wrist.

The suspect fled with the pack to a waiting, older-model, light brown pickup truck with chrome bar tailgate, which sped away east on 24th Street.

This crime caused much aggravation,

in addition to the physical injuries. Since her house and car keys had been stolen, the woman was forced to change her locks and to store her car in a neighbor's garage. She also had to notify her bank and credit card companies of the theft.

One suggestion to limit your loss in an incident like this is to reduce the amount of "stuff" you carry on a daily basis. Do you think maybe you could leave that Bloomingdale's charge card at home until you make the trip to New York? Try carrying just a few checks rather than your entire checkbook. I urge you to take an inventory of what you really need, and then carry only those items.

I once took an overseas trip with my mom, who was known to carry more plastic than Martha Stewart. I instructed her to take only one credit card and her i.d., and gave her a now unremembered ultimatum if she failed to comply.

We traveled from different cities, and when I arrived to meet her, the first thing she did was hug me, and the second was open her wallet and triumphantly show me the one credit card, her i.d., and a photo of me and my brother. "See," she told me, "I listened." What a moment.

In the most recent robbery on March 13 at about 6 a.m., a 41-year-old woman walking west on 24th Street toward Fair Oaks was approached by a 25- to 30-year-old man who initially asked for a cigarette, then lunged at the woman from behind, causing her to fall to the sidewalk. The suspect grabbed the woman's shoulder bag and ran to Fair Oaks, fleeing southbound in a dark blue Mazda.

Police May Get Their Own DA's

The word around the district attorney's office is that we will soon have "community DA's": assistant district attorneys assigned to a specific area or beat, who will act as liaisons with community police officers like me. I'm jazzed at the prospect



Officer Lois Perillo Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

of having the luxury of one-stop booking and an open dialogue between our departments. But I don't know when this program will be implemented....

Pinning Down the New Captain

Mission Station's new top cop is Al Casciato. He's an alumnus of the old Mission Station and there's much to report about him, but his recent promotion to captain has kept him running from one community meeting to another. The upshot of all this: he's been unavailable for an interview.

I've warned him, though. If I don't get the scoop by next month, I may submit a character sketch more suitable for the April Fool's edition of the *Voice*.

Until next time, be safe and I'll see you on patrol. □

Officer Lois Perillo is the community police officer for the northern half of Noe Valley, from 21st Street to Cesar Chavez Street. You can reach her by calling Mission Police Station, 558-5400.

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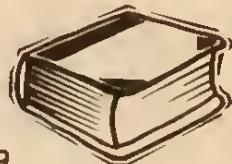
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Parking Changes in Store for Noe Valley

By Anne Gates

The city has found ways to add 58 new parking spaces to Noe Valley. And at least 28 will go in next fall.

But don't start revving your engines. Most of the new parking spots will be a trade-off for the nearly three dozen parking places that will be lost due to installation of wheelchair ramps along the J-Church streetcar line. Plus, there's no guarantee residents and merchants will buy the new parking proposals.

The ramps, which are mandated by the 1991 Americans with Disabilities Act, will be built at two key Muni stops—the intersection of Church and 24th streets, and of Church and Day in "outer" Noe Valley.

This January, at the request of Upper Noe Neighbors, the city's Department of Parking and Traffic (DPT) conducted a survey of parking patterns around the two intersections. DPT engineers also pinpointed the number of spaces that could be gained by converting existing parallel parking to 45-degree angled parking.

After surveying both vicinities, the traffic engineers concluded that the 29th and Church Street area could gain up to 40 parking places by switching to angled parking. By installing diagonal parking on some of the cross-streets, they also came up with 18 potential parking spots near the 24th Street strip.

"Angled parking has been found to be feasible near both commercial areas," DPT stated in its report.

"Although they may not be directly adjacent to the spaces lost as a result of the Muni loading island platforms, we believe that additional parking would benefit the neighborhood as a whole."

Slanted Spots for Day & 29th

Some of the angled parking recommended for the outer Church Street area is almost written in concrete.

On Feb. 1, the Board of Supervisors' Housing and Land Use Committee approved 13 diagonal parking places on the north side of 29th Street and 15 on the south side of Day west of Church Street (see map). The proposal now goes before the full board and Mayor Willie Brown.

These spots are intended to make up for the 11 spaces that will be lost on Church Street between Valley and 30th, when the new ramps go in this fall. Because in most cases the ramps and platforms take up the whole block, tow-away zones will be established on the east side of Church between 29th and Day streets, and the west side of Church between Day and 30th.

To accommodate the angled parking on Day Street, the sidewalk next to Upper Noe Recreation Center will be narrowed to 12 feet, and several trees and utility poles will be relocated. According to DPT, Muni has agreed to absorb the cost of the sidewalk narrowing.

Though the Outer Church Street Merchants are still lobbying for Muni to move one of the ramps to 30th Street, Tom Maravilla of MikeyTom Market says, "We are relatively satisfied with the proposed parking changes. These are changes that we should have asked for years ago," to make parking in the neighborhood easier.

"However, we want to be sure the parking is in before construction of the ramps begins," Maravilla added. "During construction, it's going to be a nightmare."

Maravilla noted that Muni had guaran-



26th Street May Get a Four-Way Stop: Many Church Street motorists have been confused about the slanted white lines painted on Church between Clipper and Cesar Chavez streets. No, they're not diagonal parking, but rather a Department of Parking and Traffic experiment in traffic control. DPT hoped the guide lines would funnel drivers into the center lanes on Church Street, and help them avoid hitting cars turning onto Church from 26th Street. (Ever since the stop sign at 26th Street was removed five years ago at the behest of Muni, residents have been complaining about a rise in accidents.) Well, the behavior modification has apparently failed. And DPT is now recommending that the city install a four-way stop at the intersection. According to DPT, the new stop signs, if approved by the Board of Supervisors, are likely to be installed in two to three months.

Photo by Charles Kennard

teed a quick construction timetable. Muni planners even said they would put that promise in writing, but Maravilla hasn't seen any letter to that effect.

As of mid-March, the city estimated that construction of the ramps would begin in September or October. Any parking changes would be implemented shortly before construction began, a Muni spokesperson said.

Relief for 24th Street

In the meantime, DPT has also made a number of suggestions to replace the 16 parking spots that will be lost in the Church and 24th Street area:

- By installing diagonal parking on Noe and Sanchez streets between Jersey and Elizabeth, you could gain an extra eight spaces.

- Establishing angled parking on Castro Street south of 24th Street would give you about seven more parking spaces, the report said. (However, the study also stated that this might impede Muni buses.)

- Three spaces could be gained by putting angled parking on 23rd Street west of Church Street. But sidewalk narrowing would be necessary.

DPT also noted in the report that some members of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association had expressed interest in converting the existing one-hour meters on 24th Street to two-hour time limits.

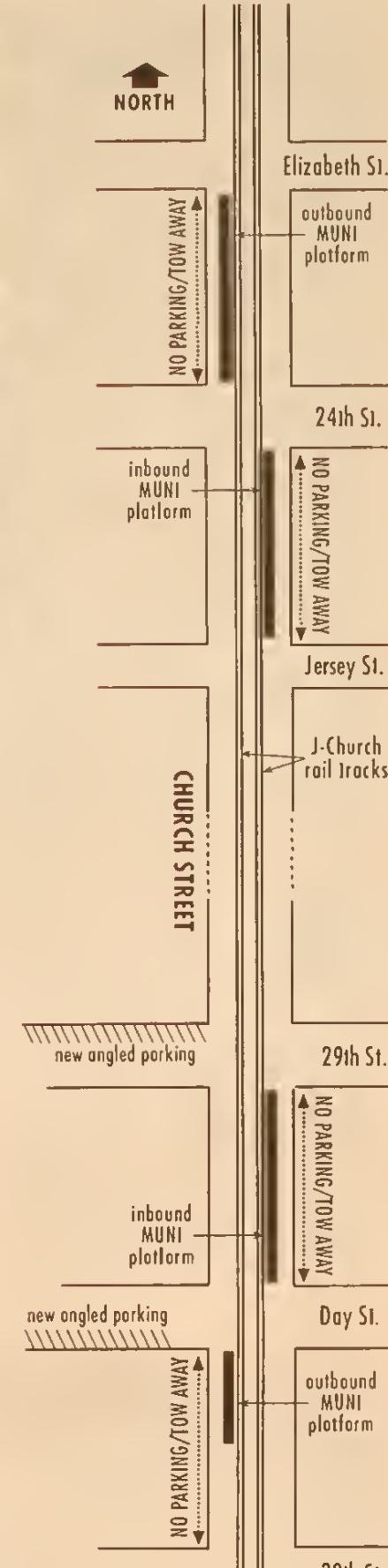
According to Bond Yee, bureau chief of DPT's Traffic Engineering Division, many of these recommended changes—especially the angled parking on side streets along 24th Street—are still on the drawing board.

"We will be working with the area merchant groups on these proposals," Yee wrote to the *Voice*. In addition, his department promised to notify the nearby residents and schedule a series of public hearings before going ahead with specific parking changes.

"We would also like to hear from you regarding any changes to the time limit regulations, curb designations, or any other suggestions you might have," Yee said.

The DPT phone number is 554-PARK (fax number 554-9834); or you can write Yee at the Department of Parking and Traffic, 25 Van Ness Ave., Suite 410, San Francisco, CA 94102.

Meanwhile, walk to 24th Street. □



The Muni ramps to be built at Church and 24th Street, and at Church and Day, will necessitate four new tow-away zones. To make up for the loss of parking, however, the city plans to create angled parking in at least two locations in Noe Valley.

Graphics by Anne Gates

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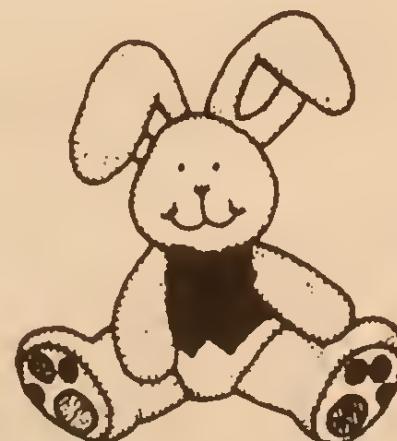
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SHORT TAKES

Tree Day at James Lick

"Wear your grubbies and meet us in front of James Lick," says Lick band teacher Peter Govorchin, who for the last four years has been the primary caretaker of 40 trees that bound the middle school at 1220 Noe St., on Noe, Clipper, Castro, and 25th streets.

Govorchin periodically organizes a "Tree Day" and invites the community to come and help him keep the trees alive and well.

"We've had a lot of rain recently," he says, "so the weeds are getting pretty big." Fortunately, he adds, "The East & West of Castro Club gave us \$500 for tools. I've got a stake pounder. I've got stakes, I've got tie-hacks, and I've got more trees and mulch coming."

"What I don't have are many bodies to help me out!"

Most of Tree Day, on Saturday, April 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., will be devoted to maintenance and cleanup around the existing California Coastal Live Oak trees, which were planted in 1989. A portion of the day will also be used to plant six or seven new trees, donated by the Department of Public Works, to replace those suffering from root damage.

"I'm up for any kind of help," says Govorchin, who notes that Tree Day turnouts have been dwindling in recent years.

In what appears to be a timely coincidence, Clipper Street resident and Friends of Noe Valley member Tom Graves has recently begun exploring ways to rejuvenate the trees around Lick.

Among other things, Graves has been investigating a new watering system. "The trees are currently being watered using hoses," he says, "and if the hoses don't reach, you have to haul buckets of water to the trees, which is physically exhausting, as well as time-consuming."

Friends of the Urban Forest, Graves notes, recommends a portable drip irrigation system, which would need to be used only one morning per week during the dry season, around 40 weeks a year.

With this system, he adds, the watering could be done on weekends, when foot traffic around the school is minimal.

"I'd like to find 20 volunteers, each willing to adopt the trees for two weekend mornings a year," Graves says. He would also like to get donations from the community to buy the irrigation system, which costs \$275.

Between Govorchin and Graves—plus the volunteers they're seeking—it looks



Future Rocket Scientists Have Liftoff. Alvarado GIRLSCIENCE is an after-school club initiated by parents, where girls get to work on science projects without the pressure of having boys around. One March afternoon found the girls at Christopher Playground in Diamond Heights, preparing to launch their handmade rockets. Pictured (clockwise from left) are May Gov, Zoe Roller, Inna Kurikova, Rachel Russell, Elaine Harris, Lizzie Nattinger, Gabriella Waher, Donisha Cunningham, Erica Joyce, and Julie Gov (standing in center).

Photo by Beverly Tharp

as if the trees around James Lick are bound for glory.

To sign up for Tree Day, call Govorchin at 759-8822. If you can help Graves with the irrigation system, give him a call at 550-7241.

Arthritis and Exercise

The Northern California Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation is sponsoring a new exercise program at the Noe Valley Ministry called—you guessed it—People with Arthritis Can Exercise.

The eight-week program will meet on Tuesdays beginning April 16, 4:45 to 5:45 p.m., on the ground floor of the Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., which is wheelchair accessible.

The cost is \$40, payable in advance or at the first class meeting, and scholarships are available. "We don't want anyone turned away because of an inability to pay," says Dawn Summers, who will conduct the course.

The Arthritis Foundation has developed a menu of 72 exercises, each of which can be performed standing or sitting, at the level of each participant's ability. Each class will focus on 20 exercises, ending with guided relaxation.

"This is a fun recreation class," says Summers, "for people of all levels of physical dexterity." Although this is the

first time the program has been taught in San Francisco, she notes, it has been highly successful nationwide.

For further information, call Summers at 285-1831 or contact the Arthritis Foundation at 673-6882.

Attention, Animal Lovers!

Daffodils aren't the only thing popping out in abundance this time of year. According to the San Francisco SPCA, spring is kitten and puppy season, too.

This year the SPCA has a particularly large selection of dogs—in all shapes and sizes—waiting to be adopted.

Adopters receive a 30-day medical assistance plan at the SPCA infirmary, a free first medical exam from a local vet, and as much advice as needed for the life of their pet, from SPCA canine behavior counselors. Each adopted dog will also walk away with a bright red clip-on collar and leash worth up to \$25, plus a temporary i.d. tag.

Foster parents are also needed to open their homes to animal babies for a few days or weeks. When the youngsters are old enough and strong enough, they can be returned to the SPCA shelter and placed in permanent homes. (Call 554-3084 for more information.)

If you can't be a caretaker but would still like to help animals, volunteers are

needed on an ongoing basis as cat socializers, dog walkers, and adoption counselors. Volunteer orientations this month will be held on Saturday, April 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and on Tuesday, April 23, from 5 to 7 p.m. (Call 554-3087 for details.)

The shelter is located at 2500 16th St. and is open daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For general information, call 554-3000.

Kids Art Show in Glen Park

"Through My Looking Glass," the seventh annual exhibit of artwork by children in the Glen Park After School Program, will be on display from April 1 to 30 at Cafe 2, located at 2885 Diamond St. in Glen Park. On Wednesday, April 10, a reception for the artists will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The exhibit features self-portraits and works inspired by nature, executed in oil pastels, acrylics, and *caran d'ache* (water soluble crayons). Twenty to 30 kindergarten-through-fifth-grade artists will be represented in the show, which includes a collaborative, surrealistic fish mural titled "Flat Foot Fishy with the Floy Floy."

The event is a fundraiser for the 15-year-old art program, and some artwork will be on sale for \$10 to \$20.

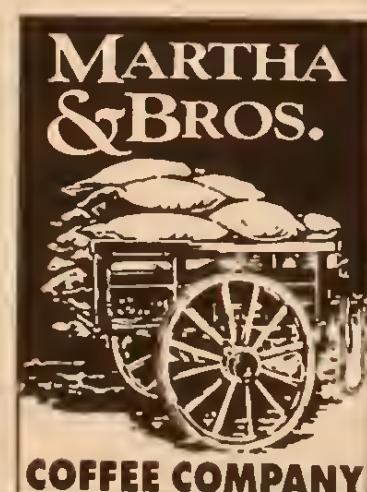
Continued on Page 15



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SHORT TAKES

Continued from Page 13

Says Director Tessa Loehwing, "We operate on the belief that art gives children a sense of personal worth. In an era of diminished public funding for arts in the schools, who will introduce children to the world of art?"

The program is housed at Glen Park Elementary School, 151 Lippard St., and serves students from both Glen Park and Rooftop elementary schools, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, contact Loehwing at 469-7928.

Gardening with Seniors

Spring has sprung, and the folks at 30th Street Senior Services are looking for a green-thumbed volunteer to lead groups of seniors in maintaining their courtyard garden, which is used for sunning, relaxing, tai chi classes, "and hopefully," says volunteer coordinator Nick Griffin, "group and individual gardening activities."

Griffin would like to find someone who can come in "for a couple of hours once a week, or at least twice a month." A knowledge of Spanish would be helpful but is not required.

Senior Services, located at 225 30th St. between Chenery and Dolores, houses the Adult Day Health Center, a nutrition program, and a senior center that offers a variety of health, educational, and social activities for people over 60. For more information, call 550-2210.

Main Events at New Main

On April 18 at 10 a.m., the 90th anniversary of the Earthquake and Fire of 1906, San Francisco will dedicate its new high-tech Main Library. The library is located in the Civic Center at 100 Larkin St., near the site where City Hall collapsed during the massive tremor.

The dedication ceremony will symbolize civic and cultural rebirth, and will include performances by a youth symphony, children's choir, and youth band, as well as the presence of all of San Francisco's past and present mayors.

In addition to 60,000 new books and over a million books from the old library, the \$104.5 million building will house hundreds of public computer terminals for locating materials on-line, 14 multimedia stations, and access to databases and the Internet.

"San Francisco's New Main will change the way we think about libraries," maintains City Librarian Ken Dowlin.

The building was designed by Noe Valley architect Cathy Simon, in collaboration with James Ingo Freed of New York. Its white granite facade comes from the same Yosemite quarry that provided

stone for the old Civic Center buildings. With seven floors, the new building has twice the square footage of its predecessor and three times the seating capacity. It contains 32 miles of stacks, as compared to 19 in the old library.

Three days after the dedication, on Sunday, April 21, the library will hold a free Family Day celebration, co-hosted by actor Robin Williams and his wife, Marsha Williams, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Family Day will take place outdoors on the Fulton Street Mall, and will feature music, dance, theater, author readings, storytelling, and circus performances, as well as free food and drink.

The library will be open for business, but in order to accommodate the anticipated large crowds, entry to the New Main will be by ticket only (free tickets will be available at a kiosk in front), with a specified number of people allowed in per hour.

The New Main Library hours will remain the same as those of the old: Monday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. For additional information, call Marcia Schneider at 557-4355 or Scott Shafer at 495-4910.

Home Care Companions

A free how-to practical skills training for partners, friends, and family who are providing care at home for persons with AIDS is being offered by Home Care Companions over five weeknights: April 17-19, 22, and 24, from 7 to 10 p.m., at St. Luke's Hospital, at the corner of Army and Valencia streets.

This training is for any nonprofessional caregiver who is now or will be helping a loved one with AIDS in the home. Class size is limited, and advance registration is required. To register, call Home Care Companions, 824-3269.

Let's Hear It for Clean Air

Do you know someone who is helping to get rid of air pollution in the Bay Area? If so, you may want to nominate him or her for a Clean Air Champion Award, sponsored by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District in honor of Clean Air Month in May.

People can improve air quality by making simple changes in their lives, such as ride-sharing instead of driving alone, switching to non-aerosol products, or using EPA-approved woodstoves or fireplace inserts. Others may go the extra distance by leading the fight for clean air, educating the community about air quality issues, or advocating for pollution control measures.

Past winners have included electric car enthusiasts, a Girl Scout troop, an environmental rap singer, a "green" talk show host, a 72-year-old bicycle commuter, and two university students who developed a clean air transportation page on the World Wide Web.

If you know someone who is making a difference, simply describe in one page how your nominee has helped improve air quality and why. Send your letter or an official entry form (available by calling 1-800-HELP-AIR) to: Clean Air Champions, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, 939 Ellis St., San Francisco, CA 94109, or fax to 749-5101. Include an address and daytime phone number for both you and your nominee.

Nominations will be accepted April 1 through May 31, 1996. Winners will be announced in September.

Family Bereavement Program

Hospice by the Bay, a nonprofit community-based organization serving San Francisco and San Mateo, is accepting enrollment for a 10-week family bereavement program beginning Tuesday, April 9. It is free for parents and children who have experienced a loss through death within the past two years.

"The program helps families explore issues of grief, sorrow, anger, pain, and loss in a safe, secure environment," says Constance Borden, executive director of Hospice by the Bay. "Both parents and children learn the coping skills they need to deal with the loss of a loved one."

The sessions will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at Hospice by the Bay's office at 1540 Market St. near Van Ness. A variety of techniques such as arts and crafts, movement, storytelling, music, relaxation will be presented by experienced facilitators committed to working with families on issues of loss and grief.

For further information call Hospice by the Bay at 626-5900.

School Has Sugar and Spice

The Noe Valley Nursery School co-op will hold its fifth annual dessert tasting fundraiser Friday, May 3, from 8 to 11 p.m. at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

This year's event, dubbed "Sweet Elegance," will offer a delicious evening of live music, champagne, and desserts from San Francisco's finest restaurants and bakeries. The public is invited to sample hundreds of cakes, cookies, pastries, and other sweets donated by establishments across the city including the Noe Valley Bakery, What's for Dessert?, La Nouvelle Patisserie, and Zanzes Cheesecake.

Tickets to the event are \$10, and can be purchased at the co-op, located within the Ministry. For information call 647-2278.

All proceeds will be used to support the 23-year-old school, which is run by 30 families devoted to providing an environment that nurtures the creative, physical, and emotional spirit of its students.

Be a Good Book Fairy

San Franciscans with AIDS often cannot visit a library, but now the library can visit them, thanks to the Friends for Life program, which is currently seeking volunteers to carry books and tapes to the homebound.

"In the past year, Friends for Life volunteers served nearly 100 clients who would otherwise not have had access to our wonderful library collections," says program coordinator Karen Strauss.

"We're looking for volunteers with big hearts and three to six hours they can donate each week," she says.

To get on the list for the next free training, which will take place in San Francisco's Civic Center and is scheduled for early summer, call 557-4280.

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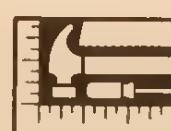
One person out of three worldwide needs glasses. And two local businesses, the Art of Cleaning and the San Francisco Home Services Center, are currently sponsoring a collection drive, "Give Your Unwanted Eyeglasses to People Who Need Them."

The annual eyeglasses recycling program provides free eye care and glasses to needy people throughout the world.

Just bring your old, used, and unwanted glasses to 1740 Market St. (between Gough and Octavia), Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information call 252-5360.

This month's Short Takes were written and compiled by Jane Underwood.



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The
GOOD LIFE GROCERY



Two Midwives Give Birth to Wisewoman

By Michele Lynn

When Maria Iorillo and Jenny Clapp view the baby stroller brigades on 24th Street, they have more than a casual interest in the pint-sized occupants. Through their work as midwives, Iorillo and Clapp have brought some of Noe Valley's youngest residents into the world.

The two women are partners in Wisewoman Childbirth Traditions, providing help for women who wish to have their babies at home, as well as labor support for those who choose to deliver in a hospital under the care of an obstetrician.

Books on midwifery and related topics line the shelves of their office, which is located in Iorillo's Liberty Street flat. The space is cozy and warm, with hardwood floors, stained-glass windows, and a distinctly woman-centered decor.

Iorillo, a skilled photographer, displays photographs of babies she and Clapp have delivered, along with portraits of pregnant women, new mothers, and her own son, 4-year-old Tyler.

Wisewoman, says Iorillo, 33, "works with 'low-risk' women who are having normal, healthy pregnancies."

"We deal with everything that goes on with them during the pregnancy, from how they are eating and sleeping and dealing with the minor discomforts of pregnancy, to how their relationship is with their partner. We also discuss the response of their community to home birth."

Clients who choose to deliver at home, says Iorillo, do so because "they feel it is the safest, most loving place to give birth. They want to be in control of their space and be surrounded by friends and family. A common thread with all of our women is they are very confident, and they trust their own bodies."

There are two types of midwives—certified nurse-midwives, who are registered nurses with additional training in midwifery, and "direct-entry" midwives, such as Clapp and Iorillo, who go directly into the study of midwifery, following a European training model.

"Midwifery training is pretty eclectic," says 32-year-old Clapp, who took her first midwifery class 3½ years ago. "I was hooked right away," she recalls. "Here was a field where my brain, my analytical thinking, my hands, my intuition, and my heart were completely utilized."

She trained as a volunteer labor coach at San Francisco General Hospital for nine months, then spent 3½ months at Maternidad La Luz, a birthing center in El Paso, Tex., where she attended classes and assisted at 31 births.

"While I was there," she says, "I heard about an apprenticeship opening up in the Bay Area. To me, an apprenticeship is a shining light because you get trained by experienced midwives in the old-fashioned way."

Clapp apprenticed for 20 months, and last April joined Wisewoman Childbirth Traditions, which Iorillo started in 1987.

Iorillo followed a similar path. "Originally," she says, "I was pre-med in college. Ever since I was 12, I thought I would be a doctor." But large classes, coupled with what she perceived as the impersonal nature of medical school coursework, discouraged her.

"After graduation, someone gave me one of the classic midwifery books, *Spiritual Midwifery*," she recalls. "As soon as I finished reading it, I had to get another



Midwife Maria Iorillo, along with Wisewoman partner Jenny Clapp (not shown), helped these and other babies enter the world. Shown with Iorillo are (l. to r.) her 4-year-old son Tyler, Maxwell Mercury Church, Gioia Fisk, and Simon Clinton.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

book on the subject. I was so excited about the social interaction, the mystery and miraculousness of birth, and about working with women."

In 1986 Iorillo studied for nine months at The Maternity Center, also in El Paso. "After that, I received a license from New Mexico and started a practice in the Bay Area."

Throughout her studies and practice, Iorillo has attended 240 births and has been the "primary" midwife—with responsibility for the birth and "catching" the baby—in 100 of those births.

Both Clapp and Iorillo are now pursuing their California midwifery licenses, thanks to the Licensed Midwifery Practice Act of 1993, which allows direct-entry midwives to become licensed in this state. Prior to the passage of the law, direct-entry midwifery, although tolerated by most doctors in the Bay Area, was technically illegal.

The two midwives follow a standard obstetrical prenatal schedule, with one big difference—they spend one hour for each prenatal visit instead of the 15 minutes usually allotted by a physician. This gives them time to talk with their clients as well as examine them.

They work as a team, before and during the birth. "It's important to practice in pairs," says Iorillo. "One midwife can take care of the baby and one midwife can take care of the mom."

The last few prenatal visits and most of the postpartum care take place at the new mother's home.

"We visit at one day after birth, three days, five days, 10 days, and three weeks," says Clapp. "We're available by phone at all times, so if anything is troublesome or difficult, we just come over. At six weeks, mom and baby are invited back here for their last checkup and a

meal. But it's never goodby."

In fact, postpartum follow-up is an essential part of Iorillo and Clapp's service. Last year Wisewoman joined with two other midwifery practices to form the Bay Area Homebirth Collective, which offers a vehicle for new mothers (and fathers) to meet, socialize, and provide emotional support for one another.

"We run a home birth education series, childbirth class, pregnancy support groups, and postpartum support groups which are very informal, usually in the form of potlucks," says Iorillo. "We place a large emphasis on networking and building community for our families."

If a woman goes from low- to high-risk during her pregnancy and Iorillo and Clapp feel compelled to transfer her care to a physician, "then we still become her labor coaches in the hospital and do her postpartum care," says Iorillo.

"We use San Francisco General as our backup hospital," she adds. "Most of the time when we transport, it is for first-time moms who are having a long labor and need some augmentation of that with pitocin [a drug designed to expedite labor], or who want some pain relief. Less than five percent of the time do we have real obstetrical emergencies."

Research has shown, Iorillo notes, that a planned home birth with a trained attendant has about the same statistical outcome as a hospital birth. And, adds Clapp, "At home, there is a decreased risk of infection or misused technology."

Nevertheless, many women—including about half of Clapp and Iorillo's clients—plan from the start to have their babies in a hospital. In those cases, says Clapp, she and Iorillo attend the birth in the hospital and act as labor coaches at that time and throughout the pregnancy.

"We usually see these women and their

partners three or four times prenatally. We educate them about their bodies and birth, discuss obstacles that might arise during labor, go over what everyone's role will be, and uncover any fears they might have about birth," says Clapp. "Mostly we're trying to instill confidence in the mom."

In addition, they help clients develop a birth plan—"a written, flexible vision that a family puts together for how they would like their birth to go," explains Clapp. "They review it with their doctor so that they can go into the birth knowing that what they want is what the doctor intends to provide.

"What we're trying to do is empower women and families to make their own decisions, so they feel like the birth didn't just happen to them." For example, Clapp adds, "There's a lot of pressure sometimes for women to give birth naturally. I really like working with women who want to do it naturally because we have a lot of great tools to help that happen, but beautiful births happen with medication, too."

The cost of Wisewoman's home birth services, from the first prenatal visit through postpartum care, ranges from \$1,800 to \$2,200. Labor coaching for hospital births runs \$500 to \$800. And, notes Iorillo, "If \$1,800 is too high, we're willing to provide the option of bartering \$200 of that fee to low-income families."

"I've learned neat things from my clients, including weaving," says Clapp, who also loves to bake bread, knit, and play guitar in the San Jose Avenue home she shares with Dan Fisherman, her musician husband of the past two years.

Iorillo enjoys photography, but says that "a lot of my time is spent being a mom to Tyler," when he's not hanging out at Wind in the Willows preschool on Church Street.

"In the past year, we did labor coaching for seven moms and attended two home births in Noe Valley," she points out.

"Tyler is friends with children I have delivered. It is so special when we can get to know our neighbors, especially in such an intimate way. It makes San Francisco feel like a small town, and I feel like the village midwife."

For more information about Wisewoman Childbirth Traditions, call Maria Iorillo or Jenny Clapp at 285-9233.

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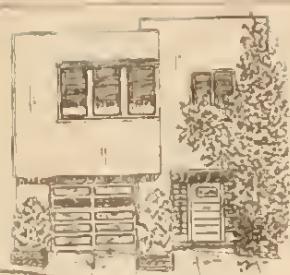
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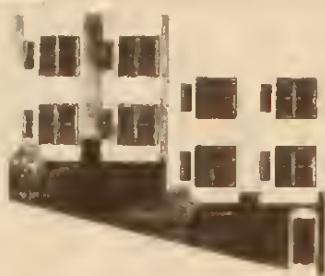
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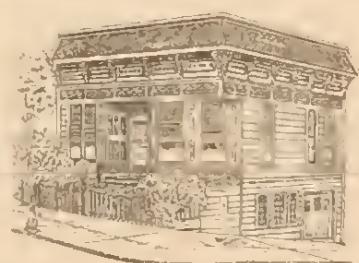
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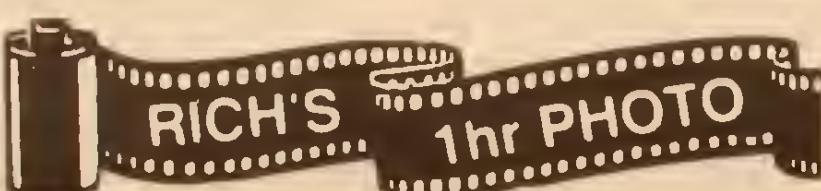
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AUNT HERMIONE'S KITCHEN

No Plates Like Home

By Ruhama Veltfort

And this is the back of King's College, in Cambridge, with the river..."

Aunt Hermione had just gotten back from England the day before, and now she was showing me pictures of her trip. She'd gone to visit an old friend of hers from Stanford who'd been living in Cambridge with her husband for the past 20 years.

"That's beautiful," I said, stifling a yawn. There were four rolls of pictures, and she'd bought postcards, too. She was the one who should have been exhausted from jet lag, but I was the one who was falling asleep.

I'd worried that the trip would be too strenuous for her, but she seemed just fine. Her friend's stepgrandson had met her at the London airport and escorted her to Cambridge, where she'd stayed in what looked like a charming old bed-and-breakfast.

"The English people are so friendly," she said. "And I will say, it did my heart good to hear our language spoken so precisely."

"I'm glad you had such a wonderful time," I said. "But, um, aren't you tired?"

"Certainly not!" she snapped. "I slept for that whole airplane flight, you know. I wouldn't mind something to eat, though. What have you got planned for dinner?"

Actually, I realized I hadn't anything planned. I wondered what there was in the freezer—some lentil soup left from last December?

"I am dying for a decent meal," she went on. "England's a wonderful country, but they don't know the first thing about how to cook."

"English food does have kind of an

awful reputation," I agreed.

"Awful? I'd rather have a slap in the face with a wet fish."

"That bad?" I gulped.

She pursed her lips and slowly shook her head back and forth. "I cannot understand it," she said. It was the same expression and tone of voice she'd used the first time she heard rap music.

"Well, maybe they haven't got all the fresh things we have here," I offered. "After all, their climate is a lot colder. It was still winter, wasn't it?"

"It's not all that cold!" Aunt Hermione shook her head again. "They have perfectly nice-looking food in the marketplace and the stores there. I had some very good tomatoes, from Spain I believe. They get things from all over Europe now. And their dairy products are absolutely delicious!"

"No, it's not the ingredients. They simply cannot cook. Even Louise, who used to be a pretty fair cook when she lived here—I was shocked."

"What specifically do you mean?" I'd heard about the horrors of English food. But I thought Aunt Hermione liked her vegetables overcooked anyway, so I wasn't sure why she was making such a fuss.

She rolled her eyes. "I'm all for sampling native delicacies of the country one is visiting, but canned spaghetti and baked beans over toast is not my idea of a decent meal. And have you ever tasted 'mushy peas'?"

"You mean those little tiny things that come in cans?"

"No, worse! They do come from a can, or 'tin' as they say, but they don't look like peas at all. It's a green glop the texture of mashed potatoes. It is abominable."

I sighed. "I bet you'd like something nice and fresh for dinner, wouldn't you, Aunt Hermione?"

"You don't need to feel sorry for me, dear. It's a very broadening experience to travel to a foreign country. And it makes you appreciate the nice things we have at home. But yes, I certainly would like something that hasn't come out of a can." She looked at me closely. "Or the freezer."

Fresh Pasta with Salmon and Asparagus

Ingredients:

1 pound fresh salmon (from filet or steak), cut into small pieces
1 pound asparagus (tips and top part of stems), cut into 1-inch pieces
2 tablespoons chopped shallots (or white part of scallions)
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
1 tablespoon butter
1/2 teaspoon tarragon
1/2 teaspoon dill
1/2 bay leaf, crumbled fine
1/2 cup dry vermouth (or white wine)
1/4 lemon

Heat butter and olive oil in a sauté pan until butter is melted. Add shallots and asparagus and cook over medium heat for 10 minutes, until asparagus is bright green and beginning to get tender.

Add salmon and cook 5 to 10 minutes, stirring and turning until all sides of the salmon pieces are cooked. Add herbs and vermouth and turn heat down. Cook a few more minutes, stirring gently, until the vermouth has cooked down to about half.

Squeeze 1/4 fresh lemon over it and serve over fresh linguine—plain, garlic, herb, lemon, or black pepper.

Serve with a tossed green salad and fresh Italian or French bread.

Serves 2-3.



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Holy Week Services 1996

Palm Sunday Services:

Saturday, March 30 at 4:15 pm in English
Sunday, March 31 at 9:00 am in English
Sunday, March 31 at 11:00 am in Spanish

Penance Service:

Wednesday, April 3 at 7:30 pm
Confessions in English & Spanish

Holy Thursday:

Thursday, April 4 at 7:30 pm (bilingual)
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10 pm

Good Friday:

Friday, April 5 at 12 noon (bilingual)

Holy Saturday:

Saturday, April 6 at 7:30 (bilingual)
Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday:

Sunday, April 7 at 9:00 am & 12 noon in English
Sunday, April 7 at 10:30 am in Spanish



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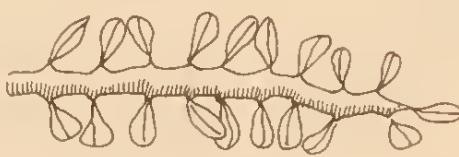
PALM SUNDAY Worship Service
Sunday, March 31 at 10:30 a.m.

CANTATE: a Service of Chants and Prayer
Followed by Laying-on of Hands
Every Second Sunday at 7 p.m. (April 14)

GOOD FRIDAY Tenebrae Service
Friday, April 5 at 7 p.m.

EASTER MORNING Celebration with
Informal Communion & Potluck Breakfast
Sunday, April 12 at 7 a.m.

EASTER DAY Resurrection Celebration with
Communion - Bring Fresh Flowers
Sunday, April 12 at 10:30 a.m.



EASTER SERVICES



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Holy Week Services

March 30, Palm Sunday: The choir will present DuBois' *The Seven Last Words of Christ* accompanied by orchestra, 11am
April 4, Maundy Thursday: Communion, 7pm
April 6, Good Friday: Service of Tenebrae by candlelight, 7pm
April 7, Easter: A joyous celebration of God's love!
Services: 9am & 11am.
Community mini-brunch: 12:15
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Palm Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Maundy Thursday Service of the Tenebrae 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Services: Prayer Service at 1:00 p.m., Worship at 7:00 p.m.

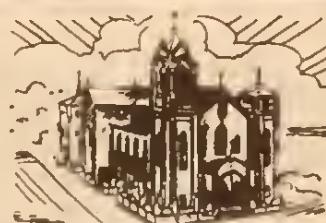
Easter: Liturgical Service 9:00 a.m. & Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Regular Sunday Liturgy at 9:00 a.m. & Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Children's Church during 10:30 services Families welcome anytime!

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Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday March 31: Blessing of the Palms in the Parish Hall
10:00 a.m. Mass. (Blessed Palms distributed at all Masses.)

Holy Thursday April 4: Mass at 7:00 p.m. with the Washing of the Feet ceremony. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Good Friday April 5: Scriptural Readings and The Stations of the Cross at 12:00 Noon; Communion Service at 2:15 p.m.; Confessions: 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday April 6: The Easter Vigil Service at 7:30 p.m. with the Blessing of the Fire/the Lighting of the Pascal Candle, the Blessing of the Easter Water, the celebration of Baptism, and the renewal of baptismal promises. Eucharist celebration follows.
(Confessions: 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. or by appointment.)

Easter Sunday April 7: Masses are at 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and 11:15 a.m. (Spanish) & 12:15 p.m.

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The Rev. Armand J. Kreft, Vicar
The Rev. Roderick Thompson, Associate
The Rev. Jan Cazden, Deacon

Sunday Services:

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.
with Church School and Child Care

1:00 p.m.

Contemporary Family Service

Services for Easter

Good Friday, April 5
12 noon & 6:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil
Saturday, April 6
8:00 p.m.

Easter Day
Sunday, April 17
8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

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EASTER SERVICES



Saint Paul's Parish

Lent-Easter Services 1996

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Every Wednesday during Lent, Stations of the Cross
at 6:00 pm followed by Soup Supper.

Every Thursday during Lent, Stations of the Cross
at 7:00 pm in Spanish.

Passion (Palm) Sunday

March 30-31	Palms are blessed and given out at all Masses.
Saturday	March 30 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	March 31 8:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m. (Spanish), 12:15 p.m., 5:00 p.m.

Holy Tuesday

April 2 Tenebrae: Praying the Passion of Jesus

7:30 p.m.

Holy Wednesday

April 3 Bilingual Communal Reconciliation Service and
Private Confession, 7:30 p.m.

Holy Thursday

April 4 Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
Bilingual Mass 7:30 p.m. The Church will remain
open until 10:00 p.m. for individual adoration.

Good Friday

April 5 Celebration of the Lord's Passion
11:00 a.m.-12 Noon Reconciliation (Confession)
12:00 Noon-3:00 p.m. Bilingual Service
12:00 Noon Stations of the Cross
1:00 p.m. Reading of the Passion
2:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Word,
Adoration of the Cross, Holy Communion
3:00-4:00 p.m. Confession/Reconciliation
7:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross (Spanish)

Holy Saturday

April 6 4:00-5:00 p.m. Reconciliation/Confession

7:30 p.m. Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection

Bilingual Service arranged in four parts:
Service of the Light, Liturgy of the Word,
Sacraments of Initiation and Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Easter Sunday

April 7 Commemoration of the Lord's Resurrection
Masses at 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m.,
10:45 a.m. (Spanish), 12:15 p.m.

There will be no 5:00 p.m. Evening Mass

221 Valley Street, San Francisco, CA 94131 • 415/648-7538

Valorie Villela Runs a Senior Center That's Good for Body And Soul

By Hugh Palmerston

When Valorie Villela recounts the story of how she found her life's work in Noe Valley, it's clear that fate played a big part.

Villela, 42, moved to the neighborhood 15 years ago when she accepted a job as a nutritionist at 30th Street Senior Services, located at 30th and Dolores streets. She ended up loving both her job and her community.

Nine years ago, she became administrator of two of the five senior programs operated in the building: the Nutrition Program and the Senior Center.

A native of Oregon, Villela earned her bachelor of science degree in nutrition at Whitworth College in Spokane, Wash. She then came to San Francisco by way of Bolivia, where she had worked for three years as a volunteer nutritionist with the Mennonite Central Committee, an organization similar to the Peace Corps.

In Santa Cruz, located in the jungle-like eastern portion of Bolivia, Villela dispensed nutritional aid and information to mothers and children.

And while she was at it, she says, "I learned Spanish, and got a very strong sense of what being a Latino meant."

She had taken only one semester of Spanish in high school, but Villela learned the language readily, an aptitude she credits to her musical upbringing. Her



Senior Center Director Valorie Villela says that when seniors get reconnected with one another and society, "they're transformed. I've seen people walk in this building depressed and beaten down, and within only a few minutes, they're walking more erect." Photo by Charles Kennard

father taught band in the public schools, and played outside gigs on clarinet and saxophone. Valorie, too, played the clarinet until she graduated from high school.

"I hear language as I hear music," she says. "That, plus my absolute desire to communicate with the people I was working with, motivated me to learn very quickly."

Villela returned to the states fluent in Spanish and filled with a passionate desire to use her second language, along with

her firsthand knowledge of Latin culture. She hoped to find her ideal job in the nutrition field in the Pacific Northwest.

"But nobody blinked an eye when I told them I spoke Spanish," she recalls. After several less-than-ideal job interviews, the last one in Portland, Villela was heading to Seattle when her luck changed.

"I got on the Greyhound bus," she says, "and there was only one seat left, next to this woman with white hair."

The woman turned out to be a faculty member at San Francisco City College, and their chance encounter changed the course of Villela's life.

"We got to talking," says Villela, "and she told me she was looking for a Spanish-speaking nutritionist to work at the college as a consumer educator. She said she had a part-time position. I said I needed full-time, and she said, 'I know someone else who's looking for a Spanish-speaking nutritionist.' That person happened to

be the director of this center. Two weeks later I came here—and I stayed."

Villela adds that her Bolivian experience "opened doors in numerous ways I could never have imagined." Not only did it help her find a job, it helped her find her husband, Leopoldo Villela.

"He is from Mexico City," smiles Villela. "We met in 1984 at a potluck meeting of people who wanted to help victims of human rights violations in Guatemala and El Salvador."

Leopoldo and Valorie were married in 1987, the same year that Valorie Villela became director of both the Nutrition Program and the Senior Center at 30th Street Senior Services, then run by California Pacific Medical Center. (On Lok Inc., a Chinatown-based agency that provides elder day care at several locations around the city, acquired the Noe Valley

Continued Next Page

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Valorie Villela Nurtures a Thriving Senior Center

Continued from Previous Page

complex last July.)

The two senior programs were much smaller when Villela took the reins. But over the years, the Nutrition Program has grown from one small kitchen and dining room to an enterprise that cooks and distributes hot, nutritious midday meals to seven sites throughout the city.

Villela now supervises a food service that occupies the entire first floor of the three-story Senior Services building. Meals are dispatched Monday through Friday to places ranging from the Castro to 43rd Avenue. The program also home-delivers hot meals to seniors six days a week.

For 30th Street Senior Services alone, Villela oversees the preparation of weekday lunches on two shifts, at noon and 1 p.m., in two dining rooms seating 175 people.

When not orchestrating food production, Villela runs the Senior Center, which offers a broad spectrum of recreational, physical, and educational activities for older adults.

This program originated, she says, "when a group of seniors approached Hadley Hall, the executive director at the time, and said, 'Can we have a room in your building?'" They got the room, and after the program had been going for a year, Villela took over as director.

Because the founding group was primarily Latino, Villela notes, the program has attracted many Latin seniors, and the idea has gotten around the neighborhood that the 30th Street Senior Center is a Spanish-only cultural center—a misconception she would like to correct.

"We define ourselves as multicultural," says Villela. "In a time when different races are having trouble, we see ourselves as bridge-builders, helping seniors of all races and all cultures to figure out how to live together in San Francisco, and make it a win-win situation for everyone. What I want to say to Noe Valley is that there are a lot of Caucasians and English



A lucky bus ride brought Valorie Villela to Noe Valley and 30th Street Senior Services, where she runs the Senior Center and Nutrition Program.

Photo by Charles Kennard

speakers in this group. We reflect who lives in our neighborhood."

The Senior Center, which is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday, has come a long way since the days of basket weaving. Participants can take language classes in Spanish or English, as well as art classes such as silk-painting and printmaking with artist-in-residence Joy Lily. They also sign up for exercise programs that range from gentle stretching and yoga to aerobics using treadmills, exercise bikes, and light weights.

Under Villela's devoted direction, both the Nutrition Program and the Senior Center are hustling with energy and enthusiasm, much of which is generated by her 120 volunteer workers.

"Many of our volunteers are seniors who first came here to get a great meal for \$1.25," says Villela. "Then they got involved in the program and asked what they could do to help." These volunteers donate 60,000 hours a year, she says.

Undaunted by her heavy schedule at Senior Services, Villela still teaches consumer education classes at City Col-

lege—the same ones she so fortuitously learned of from the woman on the bus 15 years ago.

Looking back over her years at Senior Services, Villela says, "My office is right in the middle of the Senior Center, and I wouldn't have it any other way. I've seen people walk in this building depressed and beaten down, and within only a few minutes, they're walking more erect. The value of what we do here is not just in the specific services we offer. It's in the sense of belonging."

"The isolation of the elderly in this society has contributed to the deterioration



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of their health. What we see here is that when people get reconnected with each other, they're transformed. Then they begin to contribute to society again.

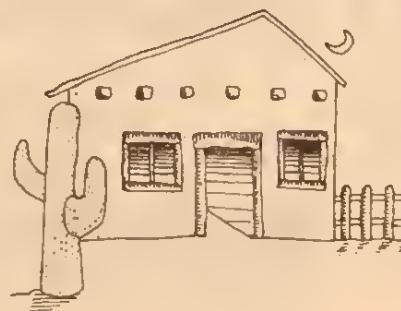
"The challenge to keep these programs going, in this political climate, has become harder and harder. We've been cut here and cut there, but somehow we just keep going forward," Villela adds with justifiable pride. "Since 1981, we've just done more and more, and gotten better and better." □

The Nutrition Program and the Senior Center are just two of the five programs housed at 30th Street Senior Services, 225 30th St. The other three are the Adult Day Health Care Program, the Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Center, and the Outpatient Rehabilitation Program. For more information, call 550-2210.

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A P R I L

MARCH 28: The Upper Noe Neighbors' MEETING features a discussion of Muni ramps and development at former sites of St. Paul's Church. 7:30 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, Sanchez and Day 641-5989

MARCH 29 & 30: The Community Music Center offers REGISTRATION for new students in private and group lessons. Fri., 3-7 pm, and Sat., 10 am-1 pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015

MARCH 31: The creators of "Si Se Puede," the new MURAL at Cesar Chavez Elementary School, dedicate their work in a ceremony from noon to 5 pm. Folsom between 22nd & 23rd 285-2287

APRIL 1: TOM AMMIAND, Lisa Geduldig and Karen Ripley perform at the Committee for Health Rights in the Americas' Comedy Event. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 431-7760

APRIL 1-30: The Diamond Senior Center offers free WATERCOLOR CLASSES every Mon., Tues., and Fri. at 9 am. 117 Diamond St. 863-3507

APRIL 26: Dress in salari attire for the ZOO FEST '96, featuring a North African Treasure Trek, cocktails at the Lion House, dinner and dancing. 6:30 pm. San Francisco Zoo, 1 Zoo Rd. Enter at South Gate 753-7171

APRIL 27: The Randall Museum offers a class in FISH PRINTING tee shirts at 1 pm. 199 Museum Way 554-9600

APRIL 26-29: Costa Brava, a FILM by "the Spanish Woody Allen," Marta Balletbo-Coll, premieres at the Castro Theatre. 429 Castro St. 621-6120

APRIL 1-30: Cafe 7 exhibits PAINTINGS from the Glen Park Creative Arts After School Program. Reception, April 10, 7-8:30 pm. 2885 Diamond St. 337-9660

APRIL 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: Gryta Coates leads a class, "YOGA Plus," which includes breathwork using the Middendorf breath method. Tuesdays, 7:30-9 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 641-1913 or 282-2317



Noe Valley cellist Emil Miland will be joined by five musical guests at Sunday Afternoons at the Ministry April 21. Photo by Marty Sohl.

APRIL 2, 16 & 30: The Noe Valley Library's preschool STORY TIME begins at 10 am. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

APRIL 2-27: The Capp Street Project presents an ART INSTALLATION by Sarkis, "Three Zones Plus One." 525 Second St. 495-7101

APRIL 3: PASSOVER begins at sunset. Call the Jewish Community Center at 777-4545 for a list of community seders

APRIL 3: Transformation Birth Services discusses the importance of CHILO8IRTH preparation, labor support, and postpartum care. 7 pm. Beyond the Sea, 1303 Castro St. 285-4614.

APRIL 3, 17 & 24: Toddlers, infants, parents, and friends are welcome at the Noe Valley Library's LAPSITS. 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095

APRIL 3-27: New Langton Arts presents Seattle sound artist Trimpin's "PHFFT," an interactive sculpture of 200 tuned wind instruments activated by computer. Wed.-Sat., noon-5 pm, reception Mar. 14, 6-8 pm. 1246 Folsom St. 626-5416.

APRIL 4: The People With AIDS Coalition holds its membership MEETING & SOCIAL from 7-9:30 pm. Eureka Valley Rec Center Auditorium, 100 Collingwood St. 522-2341

APRIL 4: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL Group B0's monthly meeting features a discussion of Tibetan prisoner of conscience Phuntzog Nyidron. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 587-7299.

APRIL 5, 12, 19 & 26: Join the Bernal Heights Branch Library's MAGIC CLU8. 4-6 pm. 500 Cortland St. 695-5160

APRIL 5, 12, 19 & 26: Meet one woman and 100 characters in PERFORMANCE in "The Heather Woodbury Report, or 'What Ever'" 10 pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933

APRIL 6: The Randall Museum offers a class in EGG DYEING taught by Arinthia Jones. 1 pm. 199 Museum Way 554-9600

APRIL 7: Union Street's EASTER PARADE and Spring Celebration features music, street entertainment, and children's activities. Starts at 10 am. 673-0555

APRIL 8: Community College offers a free course in dealing with ANXIETY and stress. 6:30 pm. Everett Middle School, 450 Church St. 585-5212

APRIL 8: The S.F. branch of the American FUCHSIA SOCIETY offers a discussion of insect damage at its monthly meeting. 8 pm. County Fair Building, Ninth Ave. at Lincoln Way 566-4797

APRIL 8: One Nation Underground, featuring Terra Deva and dj George, perform at "Boogie Wonderland," a night of soulful jazz and other dance music to benefit the battered women's shelter La Casa de las Madres. 9 pm-2 am. Cafe du Nord, 2170 Market St. 861-5016

APRIL 9: POETS Robin Jacobson and Melody Lacina read at Keane's 3300 Club. 7 pm. 3300 Mission St. 333-3494



Singer-songwriters Chris Weipert and Carin Anderson comprise the acoustic folk duo The Other Side, performing at New College Theater April 28

APRIL 9: Parents Place Jewish Family and Children's Services offers a WORKSHOP, "Your Child's Temperament." 7-8:30 pm. 3272 California St. 563-1041

APRIL 10: The Noe Valley Library screens the classic FILM The Black Pirate 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095

APRIL 10: The Noe Valley DEMOCRATIC CLUB looks ahead to the November election at its regular monthly meeting 7:30 pm. 148 Randall St. 821-4087

APRIL 11: The FRIENDS of Noe Valley's regular monthly meeting will cover new construction plans in the neighborhood and give an update on improvement projects. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-9502

APRIL 11-MAY 30: Parents Place hosts a SUPPORT GROUP for women in their 30s and 40s, "Biological Clock." 7 pm. 3272 California St. 563-1041

APRIL 11 & 25: Doug Dowd leads a class, "Getting Our Heads Screwed on Straight About Current ECONOMIC Controversies and Proposals." 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 88B Valencia St. 282-9246

APRIL 12: The Noe Valley Music Series presents British virtuoso guitarist AORIAN LEGG at 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238

APRIL 12-18: The Roxie Cinema screens Kids of Survival: The Art and Life of Tim Rollins & K.O.S., a look at the South Bronx ART/EDUCATION group. 3117 16th St. 863-1087

APRIL 13: The Children's Council of S.F. hosts an old-fashioned SWAP MEET for parents and childcare providers. One Second St. 243-0111.



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APRIL 13: James Lick School's benefit student CARWASH runs from 10 am to 3 pm. Upper school yard off 25th St., between Castro & Noe. 759-8822

APRIL 13: "Bugs Bunny: The Inside Story" offers indoor RABBIT CARE advice and adoptable House Rabbit Society foster rabbits. 1-4 pm SPCA, 2500 16th St. 554-3050

APRIL 13: MARK KENWARD performs "Rolling Home," featuring Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*, and the stories of the whaling ship *Essex* and the wreck of the *Blairmore* in the San Francisco Bay. 2 pm. Glen Park Branch Library, 653 Chenery St. 337-4740

APRIL 13: The San Francisco CHDRAL SDICITY performs Mozart's *Grand Mass in C Minor* and Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*. 8 pm. St. Ignatius Church, Fulton & Parker 392-4400

APRIL 13: Singer-songwriters CINDY LEE BERRYHILL, Sonya Hunter, and David Brian perform at the Noe Valley Music Series. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

APRIL 14: The Noe Valley Chamber Music Series hosts a CDNCERT by students from Community Music Center. 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

APRIL 14: The Noe Valley Ministry's CANTATE service of chanting, meditation, and prayer begins at 7 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

APRIL 14, 21, 28 & MAY 5: The S.F. Zoo offers an on-site ART CLASS for ages 16 and over, "Illustrating Domestic Animals and Their Wild Cousins." 12:30-4 pm. Education Classroom, 1 Zoo Rd. 753-7080

APRIL 16: The Noe Valley Ministry and the Arthritis Foundation sponsor an EXERCISE PRDGRAM, "People With Arthritis Can Exercise." Tuesdays, 4:45-5:45 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 285-1831 or 673-6882

APRIL 16: The Bernal Heights Branch Library hosts a WRITERS' GRDUP from 7-8:30 pm. 500 Cortland St. 695-5160

APRIL 18: LA LECHE LEAGUE's monthly meeting discusses nutrition and weaning. 12:15 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez St. 282-7816

APRIL 18: Political activist Margaret Randall discusses her BDDK *The Price You Pay: The Hidden Cost of Women's Relationship to Money*. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246



Tom Wach's "Birthday Party, 1986" is one of the photos featured in "Portrait of a Community: Noe Valley Through the Eyes of Noe Valley Voice Photographers," on display through June 2 at Yerba Buena Gardens.

APRIL 17: Vered Ben-dor introduces the FELDENKRAIS method of body movement. 7 pm. Beyond the Sea, 1303 Castro St. 285-4614

APRIL 17-19, 22 & 24: HOME CARE Companions offers free practical skills training for AIDS caregiving. 7-10 pm. St. Luke's Medical Center, Cesar Chavez & Valencia. Call 824-3269 for required advance registration.

APRIL 18-JUNE 9: The new Main Library showcases the work of over 50 book artists, calligraphers, bookbinders, and printers in "Bay Sampler: A 8DDK ARTS Celebration." Mon., 9 am-6 pm, Tues.-Thurs., 10 am-8 pm, Fri., 11 am-5 pm, Sat., 9 am-5 pm, Sun., noon-5 pm. 100 Larkin St. Sixth floor atrium gallery 557-4565

APRIL 19: Leonard Pitt, PERFDRMER and teacher of mime, movement, and mask theater, lectures on "Finding the Ground, Finding Our Body." 7-9 pm. California Institute of Integral Studies, 9 Peter Yorke Way, 753-6100, ext. 241

APRIL 20: TREE DAY at James Lick School needs volunteers for planting and restaking trees and weeding the planting beds. 10 am-3 pm. 1220 Noe St. 759-8822

APRIL 20: Vocalist Nneena Freelon performs JAZZ at the Randall Museum. 2 pm. 199 Museum Way 554-9600.

APRIL 20: Community Music Center's FACULTY CONCERT, "The Second Sex on the Edge," features works by female composers. 8 pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

APRIL 21: The Miraloma Co-op Nursery School invites parents to an OPEN HOUSE. 10 am-3 pm. 443 Foerster St. 239-7416.

APRIL 23: The Noe Valley Library shows FILMS for preschoolers at 10 and 11 am. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

APRIL 24: The Noe Valley Library BDDK DISCUSSION group analyzes the novel *Tropic of Cancer* by Henry Miller. 7:30 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095

APRIL 24: Author Tom Athanasiou discusses *Divided Planet: The ECOLOGY of the Rich and Poor*. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

APRIL 28: The American Heart Association's May Day RUN & WALK features 5K and 10K events and a kids' fun run. Meet 8 am at the Golden Gate Park Music Concourse. Call 433-2273 for entry information.

APRIL 30: Keane's 3300 Club hosts a reading by PDET Glen Ingersol and a guest, followed by an open mike. 7 pm. 3300 Mission St. 333-3494

MAY 1: California LAWYERS for the Arts holds a workshop on doing business on the Internet. 7-8:30 pm. Fort Mason Center, Building C, Room 255 775-7200, ext. 636

Next Month's Calendar Deadline: April 15

Do you have a garage sale, poetry reading, art show, or block club meeting coming up? We are happy to promote neighborhood events for free in the Calendar section of the *Voice*.

To get a notice in our next issue—which will hit the streets Wednesday, May 1, and will publicize events during the month of May—send us the scoop by April 15. Please mail your notice to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

Calendar questions or last-minute changes should be directed to Karol at 285-6347. Note that items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley events receiving priority. Thanks for keeping us informed. □

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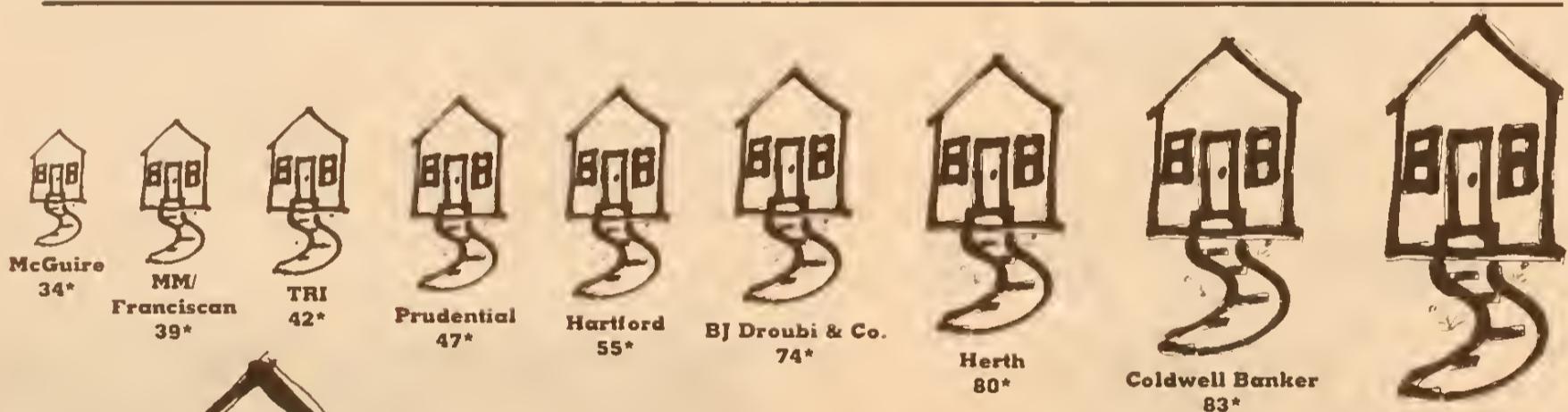


Slow Down and Stop for a Chat. Eighty-three-year-old Jeannette Anderson is a lifelong resident of Noe Valley and can be seen from time to time making her rounds on 24th Street in the company of 9-year-old Little Bit. In the old days, says Anderson, you never saw a truck blocking 24th Street, and the only noise was from the No. 11 streetcar, which made a loop up our main street and down around Dolores Park.

Photo by Beverly Thorp

DATELINE: NOE VALLEY

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Amnesty International Group 80
Contact: Denise Minor, 661-3016
Mailing Address: 1324 Willard St. #101,
San Francisco, CA 94117
Meetings: First Thursday of month, Noe
Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 7:30 p.m.

Castro Area Planning + Action
Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230
Meetings: Second Thursday of month,
Eureka Valley Recreation Center,
100 Collingwood St., 7 p.m.

Clipper Street SAFE Group
Contact: Don Kem or Howard Johnson,
821-3866

Mailing Address: 225 Clipper St.,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Third Tuesday of month, Bethany
Methodist Church, 201 Clipper St., 7 p.m.

Diamond Heights Community Association
Contact: Robert Dockendorff, 826-3867
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Thursday of the month,
7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club
Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228
Mailing Address: 3732 21st St.,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Bimonthly; membership meetings
semi-annually. Call for details.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)
Contact: Evelyn Martin, 826-6734,
Keith Eickman, 282-8988,
Dennis Downing, 647-0937, or
Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St.,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

**East & West of Castro Street
Improvement Club**
Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St.,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Noe
Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

Fairmount Neighborhood Association
Contact: Susan Nutter, 285-8484
Mailing Address: 78 Harper St.,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically at Upper Noe
Recreation Center, Day & Sanchez, 7 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors
Contact: Paul Nixon, 647-5183
Mailing Address: 163 Fair Oaks St.,
San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Twice a year at ICA Auditorium,
24th & Guerrero. Call for details.

Friends of Noe Valley
Contact: Cecile Lozano, 695-9502
Mailing Address: 327 Jersey St.,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Second Thursday of month,
Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

La Leche League of San Francisco
Contact: Susan Condon, 282-7816
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460566,
San Francisco, CA 94146-0566
Meetings: Third Thursday of month,
Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day &
Sanchez, 12:15 p.m.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association
Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990, or
Hilda Bernstein, 282-8232
Mailing Address: 3333 21st St.,
San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

Mission/Noe Valley Kiwanis Club
Contact: Glen Potter, 824-3233
Mailing Address: 4080 24th St.,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Lunch meetings Tuesdays at
noon. Speckmann's, Church and Duncan

Neighbors to Save Sanchez Hilltop
Phone: 647-9980
Mailing Address: 3726 21st St.,
San Francisco, CA 94114

Noe Valley Democratic Club
Contact: Dave Monks, 821-4087
Mailing Address: 1652 Dolores St. #6,
San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Second Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.,
usually at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021
Sanchez St., but call for specifics.

**Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals
Association**
Contact: J. P. Gillen, Little Italy, 821-1515
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 460574,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Last Wednesday of month, Bank
of America, 24th & Castro, 9 a.m.

Noe Valley Senior Center
Call 648-1030 for lunch reservations.
Mailing Address: 1021 Sanchez St.,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Monday through Friday for lunch
(donation \$1.25), Noe Valley Ministry,
1021 Sanchez St., 12:30 p.m.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants
Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
Mailing Address: 284 29th St.,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Monday of month, St. Paul's
Church cafeteria, 3 p.m.

21st Street 4000 Block SAFE
Contact: Santiago Rodriguez
Mailing Address: 4014 21st St.,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Held periodically.

Upper Noe Neighbors
Contact: Janice Gendreau, 641-5989
Mailing Address: 403 28th St.,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Every other month, Upper Noe
Recreation Center, Day & Sanchez,
7:30 p.m. Call for specifics.



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Let BYLINES Be BYLINES

Are You a Friend of Noe Valley?

By Georgia Finnigan

Do you call Noe Valley your home? What do you care about? Is it the relaxed, friendly atmosphere? The warm weather, charming architecture, and low-key lifestyle? Or perhaps the convenient shopping area? What about the relative safety and neighborliness?

These qualities have not come automatically to Noe Valley. And preserving them requires concern, vigilance, and hard work. In the past 20 years, Noe Valley has evolved from a quiet, sleepy place with a small commercial district to a bustling community and a busy shopping area. Because of this growth, the cost of living has skyrocketed, parking has become next to impossible, and there has been a sharp increase in traffic, congestion, noise, and trash.

Fortunately, many improvements have occurred as well, largely due to neighborhood organizations such as Friends of Noe Valley (FNV). For more than 20 years, Friends has initiated and supported beneficial neighborhood projects and given Noe Valley residents a more forceful collective voice in matters that concern them.

Friends of Noe Valley has been responsible for or co-sponsored major improvements to public spaces, such as the park at Noe Courts, the community center at Douglass Playground, and the local library branch.

Noe Courts used to be the concrete and paved remains of an old school, and the community center was a dilapidated, useless structure. The library now has an inviting deck, and a newly decorated meeting room.

Courtesy of Friends, hundreds of trees have been planted and open spaces cleaned up and converted to gardens in the neighborhood. In addition, many of the newer commercial and residential developments have been designed in consideration of the predominant architectural styles in the area. In some cases, these projects have been scaled down to preserve neighboring views.

Did you know that Friends negotiated with Walgreens to allow one-hour parking in the drugstore's lot for all shoppers, whether or not they were going into Walgreens? Did you know that Friends did a traffic study on Clipper Street and was responsible for the bigger signs on several blocks?

Friends of Noe Valley has been influential in planning the type and number of food-service establishments allowed on 24th Street, in an effort to control traffic and trash problems and to encourage a diversity of shops for the people who live here.

Some projects are ongoing. For example, every year the library makes its garden area available to youth and others who want a place to do gardening. Members of Friends clean up the garden when the growing season is over, and hold a potluck afterwards. Last year we organized a drive to collect gardening tools for the gardeners.

In addition, an FNV work crew cares for the trees around James Lick School. This year we're considering an adopt-a-tree program.

Over the years, Friends has raised funds for many local organizations, including the Child Care Switchboard, the Noe Valley Ministry, and the Jamestown Youth program.

Friends of Noe Valley is also a great place to meet people. Every year we hold a community picnic, a trip to the symphony, and a year-end holiday party. Last month Friends went to see "West Coast Live" at Fort Mason.

Each month FNV meets at the library to hear speakers on a wide range of topics, such as street safety, compost gardening, bike security, and city services. The meetings also serve as a forum for neighbors, merchants, and others who have information they wish to bring to the attention of the community. We have recently heard from neighbors about problems with garbage and parking, new construction and recent outbreaks of crime in the neighborhood.

Frequently, builders and developers come to the meetings to get feedback on plans for new residential or commercial projects. Even though members represent a diversity of opinion, sometimes there is a clear consensus, and FNV takes a position on an issue that threatens neighborhood values and character.

There is common concern, for example, regarding the apparent lack of enforcement and respect for zoning regulations. Did you know that the city has a restriction on the number of restaurants on 24th Street and on the use of second-story space for commercial purposes? Did you know that Sanchez Street is zoned residential and that no new commercial establishments can be opened there? These regulations were intended to help maintain housing availability for those who wish to live here, and to create a balance between growth and change. They help us hold on to the very qualities that have made Noe Valley an attractive place to live.

If you call Noe Valley your home, Friends of Noe Valley would like to hear from you. Are you a renter with concerns or ideas for improvements that will benefit tenants? Are you a homeowner needing to network with people who have recently done a renovation? Are you a merchant seeking to locate or expand here? Are you a landlord wanting to know what kinds of businesses residents need on Church and 24th Street? Do you care if more condos are built, or do you want more open space and smaller dwellings?

Please consider playing an active role in making your neighborhood the way you want it. How often do you take a break from your busy schedule and go relax in a cafe or take a walk around Noe Valley? Why not use some of that time to help out your neighborhood? □

Georgia Finnigan is current co-chair of Friends of Noe Valley with Cecile Lozano. The group meets on the second Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m., at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St. At the next meeting, April 11, the topic will be improvement projects and new construction plans in the neighborhood. For more information, call 695-9502 or 285-8016.

Let Bylines Be Bylines

The Noe Valley Voice welcomes submissions of nonfiction essays, opinion pieces, and other first-person reflections, particularly those relating to Noe Valley politics, people, and pastimes. Please mail manuscripts, which should be typed, double-spaced, and in the neighborhood of 1,000 words, to Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. We'd appreciate a phone number, too. □



A Peaceful Refuge: It looks a little like Paris or Boston, but book lovers know it's the side garden of the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library on Jersey Street, a spot that's been tended over the years by Friends of Noe Valley.

Photo by Pamela Gerard



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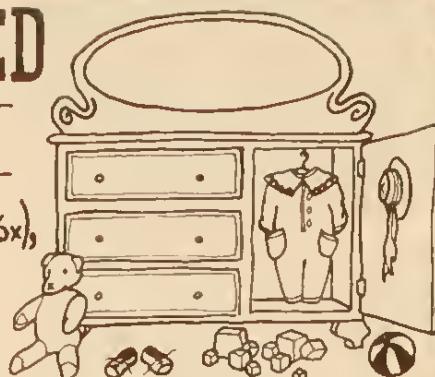
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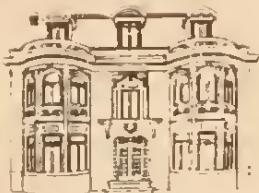
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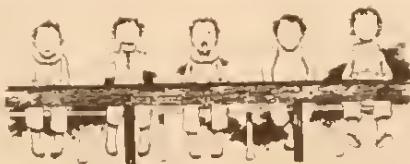


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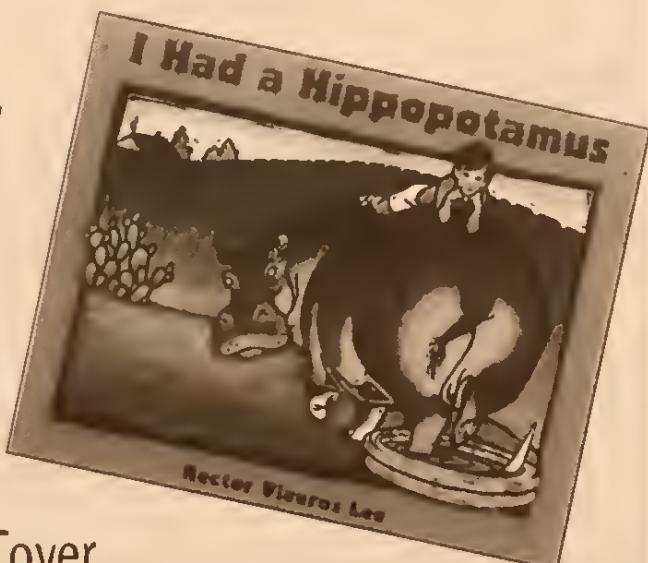
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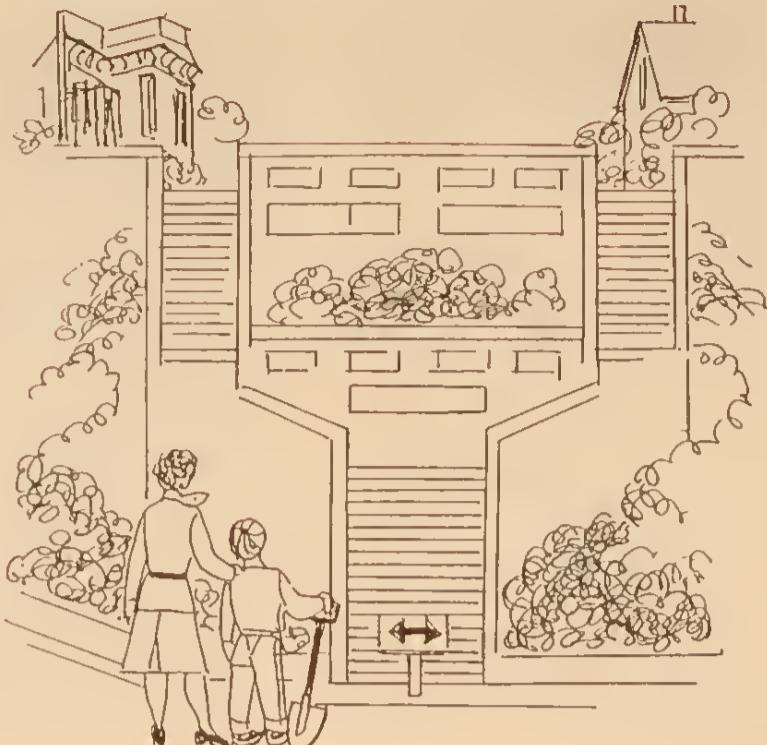
The first feet to trod the hills of our valley were undoubtedly those of the Miwok Indians. I picture them searching the grassy slopes for the same small but deliciously sweet wild strawberries my brothers and I picked during the summer months when we were children.

Jose Noe, the man whose name we honor, also may have climbed to the heights to get a bird's-eye view of his rancho, which covered 4,400 acres stretching south from 16th Street and west from Valencia. He acquired the property as a land grant from the last Mexican governor of California in 1846.

Eight years later, following the discovery of gold and the arrival of shiploads of settlers, Noe sold his land to brothers John and William Horner, whose company built a large share of the earliest houses in Noe Valley.

In the 1880s, one of the first houses to go up on our hill, in the neighborhood we now call Dolores Heights, was a stately mansion built by Adolph Scheerer. Scheerer was one of San Francisco's more successful contractors, but he built his mansion at 450 Liberty St. (between Sanchez and Noe) the hard way.

The construction materials had to be shipped from the East Coast around



Cape Horn, the southernmost tip of South America. Once they arrived here, the supplies had to be hauled up the face of an almost perpendicular slope using mules and chains!

When the house was completed, though, it must have been a grand place, both inside and out. In addition to the spacious rooms and fabulous views, the estate reportedly had an extensive garden, with many fountains and statues sprinkled among the trees and flowers.

The old building—but not the statuary—was still standing when we moved to our house on 21st Street in the '50s. But about 10 years later, the property went up for sale.

It was then that my man Leo and I met Audrey Rodgers, a neighbor on 21st Street who was fighting to preserve the fine old landmark building.

In her 40s at the time, Audrey was a brilliant, energetic woman who left an indelible imprint on the hill. She was a housewife with two children. She also was a U.C. graduate with degrees in zoology and landscape architecture.

Audrey was amazing in other ways as well. She had an Irish terrier named Shaw (for George Bernard Shaw) whose fur she combed and saved. Then she had it spun into yarn, from which she knitted a beautiful sweater for her husband!

My neighbors and I were so inspired by Audrey's passion and intelligence that we gladly pitched in to save the Scheerer mansion, which had great historical and architectural value. I remember painting a watercolor of the building to bolster Audrey's eloquent appeal before the Planning Commission.

Sadly, despite our efforts, the Scheerer house was torn down. However, due in large part to Audrey's diligence, the development that replaced it proved to be a stunning success.

Because of Audrey's tireless negotiations with the developer, what might have been a series of stuccoed boxes in the middle of the 400 block of Liberty Street was transformed into an excellent example of modern housing.

The row of wood-shingled, brick-faced houses—each with bay windows,

decks, and garages—was oriented to take advantage of a magnificent view of the city and bay. Also incorporated into the design was an intimate communal square, a tiny park with benches and flowers situated beneath two towering evergreens.

This lovely landscaped spot is only one of the places on the hill that shows Audrey's "fingerprints."

One year, during summer vacation when her young son Tim needed a challenging project, she suggested he clear the overgrown patch of vines and debris around the stairway at 20th and Sanchez streets. The spot was in dire need of attention, so Tim (now a doctor in Santa Barbara) agreeably spent his vacation vigorously weeding, hoeing, shoveling, and planting the green ground cover that has survived to this day.

Audrey was also the first person to apply for underground wiring—and thus the removal of unsightly telephone poles—on her block of 21st Street between Noe and Sanchez.

But her most important legacy was the creation of the Dolores Heights Special Use District, a set of zoning rules designed to protect the environment and the unique mix of Victorian, Tudor, and modern dwellings on our hilltop.

In the late '70s, much to our chagrin, the City Planning Department suddenly and inexplicably cut the neighborhood's back yard requirements in half. Audrey and I knew what that meant: if we didn't act fast, Dolores Heights would soon be highrises and condos.

We met to discuss the best strategy, and then my man Leo happened to put his hands on a 1971 report prepared by Planning Director Paul Jacobs. The report said Dolores Heights was one of several architecturally significant neighborhoods in the city that should be singled out for preservation.

Audrey and I formed a committee and, with the assistance of a number of local architects, drew up a set of building restrictions and boundaries for the special use district. (It runs loosely from 19th to 22nd and Church to Noe.)

For two years, we worked with the city, urging adoption of our plan. She was the brains and I was the feet, run-

Continued Next Page

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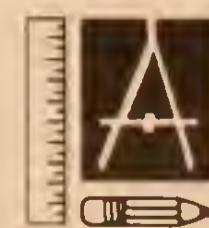
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FLORENCE'S FAMILY ALBUM

Continued from Previous Page

ning back and forth between the neighbors and City Hall.

Finally in 1980, our special district was approved at a Board of Supervisors meeting. (Ours was the second one in the city, after Pacific Heights.) After the meeting, I went home to a sleepless night, during which I repeatedly awoke, exclaiming to myself, "We did it!"

The next day, still flush with victory, I went with my neighbors Janet Pera and Rhea Kley down to the Noe Valley Bar & Grill. We ordered a carafe of wine, and toasted one another with many more rounds of "We did it!"

When I got home, I found a note in my mailbox, left by Audrey on her way to work, proclaiming, "We did it!"



Over the years, one of Audrey's goals was to fix up the public easement along the west side of Sanchez from Hill to 21st Street. For decades, the scruffy embankment had been a home for weeds and litter.

During the '60s, the "hippies" used the place as a campground for their vans. That would have been acceptable, had it not been for the garbage and other unhygienic refuse they left behind for the residents to clean up.

The unintended area also served as a lovers' lane. One gray-haired older couple used to visit the spot on a regular basis each week. They would park their house trailer, then go into the enclosed living space in back. After a half an hour, they would emerge, get into the cab, and drive away. Over a six-month period, the neighbors became friendly with them, exchanging greetings as they came and went.

One day, however, a resident who



The late Audrey Rodgers helped create the Dolores Heights Special Use District and worked tirelessly to beautify her neighborhood. Now her friends and family are placing a small memorial on Sanchez Hill.

Photo by Lea Holub

worked in a doctor's office thought she recognized the woman as a former patient. She could not refrain from asking, "Weren't you a patient of Dr. So-and-so?" Hastily and wordlessly, the couple climbed into the cab of their vehicle and departed. They were never seen again.

(I can't resist telling a story about another set of visitors to our lookout. One day, a resident I will refer to as Mr. Nosy was walking his dog in the area when he came upon two men engaged in an intimate exchange in the back of their station wagon. Mr. Nosy was peeking through the window when Ms. M.H.O.B.—Minds Her Own Business—came around the corner. Chiding him, she said, "For shame, Mr. Nosy! That is an invasion of privacy." He retorted defensively, "I just wanted to see how they do it," and then continued his walk with his more discreet companion.)

Nowadays, the embankment is sprinkled with flowers and cardboard tombstones, planted in protest over the housing development to be built on the southwest corner of 21st and Sanchez (see last month's Voice).

But Audrey's dream was to clean and landscape the spot, just like her son Tim

had done to a similar plot 20 years before. Unfortunately, two months prior to starting the project, Audrey went into the hospital for minor surgery and failed to come out of the anesthesia. She died on Aug. 26, 1994, at the age of 71.

Audrey's wishes have not been forgotten, however. Her daughter, Janice Rodgers Braken, is moving forward with her mother's plans. Janice lives in Connecticut, but she has commissioned a landscape architect to design the planting and a sculptor to carve a redwood bench, to be installed on the easement hopefully sometime this summer.

The bench will be a place for weary pedestrians who have just scaled the slope to sit and appreciate the magnificent view. It will also be a fitting memorial to a remarkable woman, Audrey Penn Rodgers, whose vision, integrity, and dedication have served and preserved the well-loved neighborhood called Dolores Heights. □



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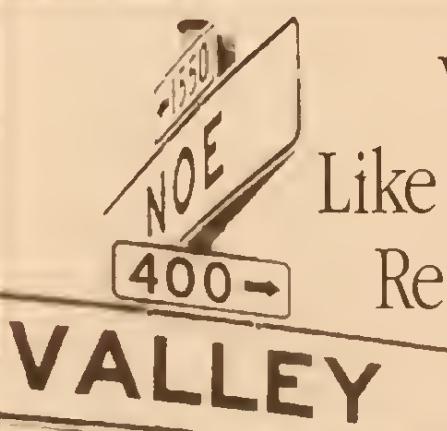
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Photo by Nojib Joe Hokim

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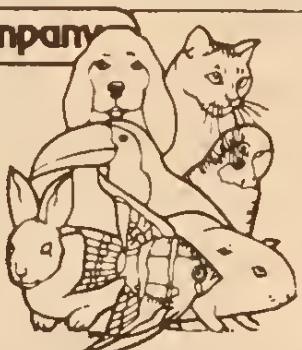
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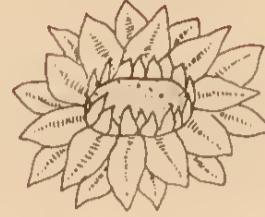


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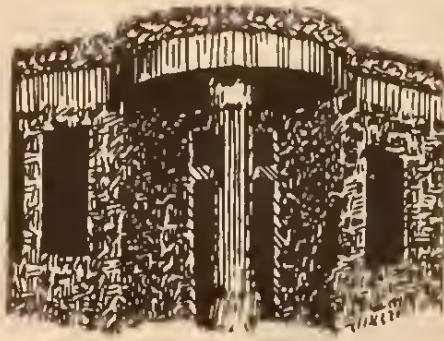
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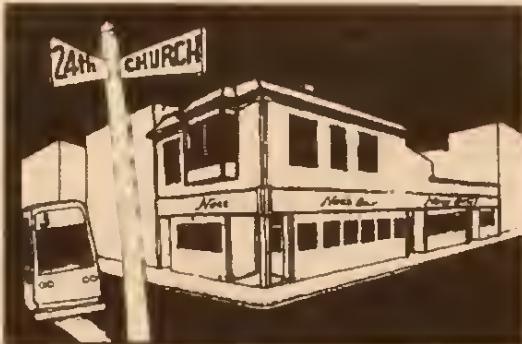
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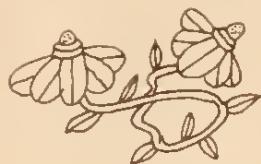
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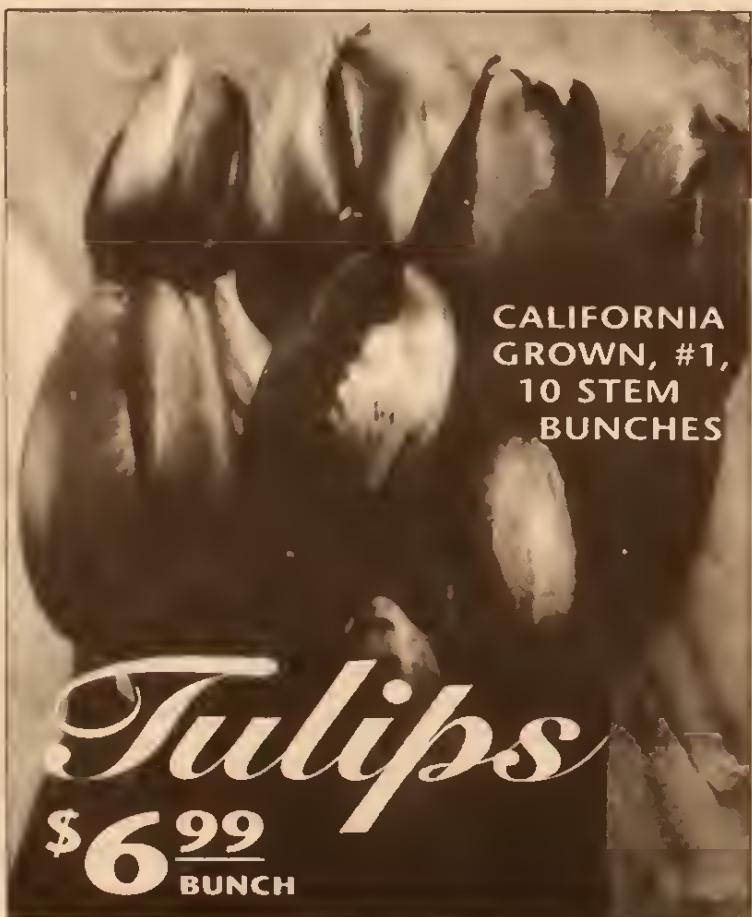


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Librarians Roberta Greifer, Carol Small, and Cornelia Van Aken-Sanks invite you to come in and check out the books and online services available at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St. (at Castro). Branch hours are Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays, noon to 6 p.m. Phone: 695-5095.

Adult Fiction

■ *Yolk*, by Croat writer-in-exile Josip Novakovich, is a collection of unusual and reflective folk tales exploring such themes as unrequited love, obsession, war, faith, and death rituals.

■ A troubled diabetic woman's bicycle trip through Alaska becomes a journey of self-discovery in James McManus' novel *Going to the Sun*.

■ In *Born in Shame*, the concluding volume of Nora Roberts' Irish trilogy, an American artist's search for roots leads her to passion and love.

■ *Still Life with Volkswagens*, an outrageous comic novel by British author Geoff Nicholson, takes place in a world populated by VW collectors, New Ageists, and eco-terrorists.

Adult Non-Fiction

■ In *Taking Responsibility*, psychologist Nathaniel Branden demonstrates the importance of self-reliance, self-responsibility, and individualism, and their relationship to the achievement of personal and political freedom.

■ Actor/comedian George Burns, who died in March, had just celebrated his one hundredth birthday with *100 Years, 100 Stories*, a collection of humorous tales drawn from his colorful past.

■ *West Coast Whale Watching*, by Richard Krutman and Mary Jane Schramm, is a comprehensive practical guide to sea mammal observation along the Pacific Coast.

■ Artist/businessperson Janice West provides 50 exciting methods for selling pieces of art in *Marketing Your Arts & Crafts: Creative Ways to Profit from Your Work*.

Book of the Month Club

The Noe Valley Book Discussion Group will meet to discuss *Tropic of Cancer* by Henry Miller on Wednesday, April 24, 7:30 p.m.

Free Film

On Wednesday, April 10, 7 p.m., the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., screens the classic film *The Black Pirate*.

More Books to Read was written by librarians Carol Small and Cornelia Von Aken-Sanks.

Children's Fiction

■ Nora runs to the barn every chance she gets and finally finds what she's been waiting for in *No Foal Yet* by Jessie Haas. (Ages 3-5.)

■ Through several generations, a family and its home both grow and change in Anne Shelby's *Homeplace*. (Ages 4-7.)

■ Chato, a devious cat, is looking forward to a lovely dinner until he sees the guest the mice have brought with them in *Chato's Kitchen* by Gary Soto. (Ages 4-7.)

■ Janetta wants so much for everything during her grandfather's visit to work out right—and it does, in *Granddaddy's Stars* by Helen V. Griffith. (Ages 5-7.)

■ With many of her middle school friends relaxing at the pool each day during the summer, Alice is more than a little worried about her extreme fear of deep water, in *Alice the Brave* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor. (Ages 10 and up.)

■ In *The Great Brain Is Back*, by John D. Fitzgerald, J.D. and his brother Tom deal with a spelling bee, pretty Polly Reagan, and outlaws. (Ages 10 and up.)

Children's Non-Fiction

■ In *Sacred River*, author/illustrator Ted Lewin shows how Hindus in Benares, India, go on a pilgrimage to renew themselves in the sacred waters of the Ganges River. (Ages 7-9.)

■ A young student works her way through an extremely challenging day, only to be faced with a different set of challenges the following day in *Math Curse*, written by John Scieszka, illustrated by Lane Smith. (Ages 7-10.)

Stories, Lapsits, Movies

Preschool Story Time, for children 3 to 5, unfolds at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, April 2, 16, and 30.

The Wednesday *Lapsits* feature songs, stories, and fingerplay for infants and toddlers. Bring a babe: 7 p.m., April 3, 17, and 24.

Films for preschoolers will be shown Tuesday, April 23, at 10 and 11 a.m.

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RUMORS
 behind the news

Our Own Mini Courtroom Dramas

By Mazook

APRIL FOOL'S DAY is the day appropriately set for a court hearing to decide whether developer Seamus McGee will get a preliminary injunction in his civil suit against five members of Neighbors to Save Sanchez Hilltop.

The hearing is in connection with a lawsuit filed in S.F. Superior Court by McGee Construction, Seamus McGee, and Brian McGee, against Don Wilson, Sylvia Saunders, Webb Hill, Monika Henschke, and—most apropos—Wade Laughter for a permanent injunction and damages in excess of \$25,000 for alleged trespass, assault and battery, and interference with the McGee business.

Meanwhile, 50 or so Savers showed up at a Board of Supes' committee hearing March 21 regarding the McGees' encroachment permit proceedings.

All of this stems from the ongoing efforts of many residents around 21st and Sanchez to stop McGee from building four large townhouses on his property atop Sanchez Hill. The dispute has become so heated that the locals are again calling the place "Battle Mountain"—the nickname the neighborhood earned back in 1916 when residents were bickering over the street layout.

Oh, by the way, one of the protesters,



Tales by Two Graffiti Artists. Two pranksters edited this billboard at Jersey and Castro in late March. One tagger left his looping signature along the left side, while on the right, a satirist created a near-perfect match for the "Bilko" typeface. The fake was so good, in fact, most pedestrians failed to notice.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

Monika Henschke, showed up for her court date March 13 down at the Hall of Justice resulting from her arrest for trespassing and battery after the Feb. 12 debacle that saw several ancient trees and an old farmhouse destroyed.

She says her name did not appear on the docket. When she presented the clerk with the citation issued to her by the police, the clerk turned it over and stamped on the back: "No Hit in Court Management System."

Monika says she was then told she

could leave. She was smiling all the way home.

IT WAS NO LAUGHING MATTER on the 15th of the month at 25th Street Workout on Castro Street. When the 6:30 a.m. crowd showed up for their eye-opener aerobics class, they found their teacher ready and willing but unable to gain access to the premises.

A sign went up in the entrance shortly thereafter on a fax dated March 15 from the owner of the building, Jon Jernigan, informing everyone that "Darin Medeiros closed his business" and "quit his lease."

You all remember when Charles Morganstern opened the exercise emporium in 1985. He sold out to Brian Daniels almost four years ago, who then sold it to Medeiros last fall.

Caught in the middle is Randi Hoffman, who runs her "Karate for Kids" program in 25th Street Workout every Mon-

day, Wednesday, and Friday afternoon. Randi has had her program there for nine of the 11 years that the Workout has been in business.

Randi says she has made separate arrangements with the building owner, and will continue to open the premises for her classes. "I hope to be open through April," she says, "and maybe something will be worked out after that."

Those of you who are Workout members will be glad to know that Purely Physical Fitness, on Castro on the other side of 25th Street, will honor the "link cards" issued for "joint classes."

Joel and Lori Leff, who own Purely Physical, say they have seen some increase in their membership, but not as a result of the Workout's closing. "We have a lot of exercise equipment, and they had a lot of aerobics and step-ups; it's really quite different," explains Joel, adding, "We have over 500 members here now."

UPDATING THE UPDATES: Davood Mozafari has abandoned his desire to buy the building on the corner of Sanchez Street and Cesar Chavez's Army. He had intended to open a food-serving establishment in what was Cafe Sanchez, but the neighbors put a damper on the idea.

Davood and wife Jila Mozafari, who just sold their 24th Street Courtyard Cafe after a 13-year run, say they're going to

Continued Next Page

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RUMORS

Continued from Previous Page

take a month off and take a cruise. They then plan to open "a new Courtyard Cafe in Larkspur, which will also have outdoor seating," Davood says.

Pop Noe Valley history quiz: What was in the Courtyard Cafe space before Davood? Answer: Cameo Coffee, until December 1982. Bye bye, Davood and Jila.

Also, a fond goodbye to Salomon Benavides, who was the cook at Hungry Joe's on Church and Day for six years. He has given up his commute from Oakley (beyond Pleasant Hill) for a job at an Italian restaurant nearer to home.

He leaves us with two very special culinary creations, however: banana-raisin pancakes and the Farmer's Omelette (eggs, sausage, bacon, mushrooms, cheese, and onions). "The officers from Mission Station were my first customers of the morning. They'd come in at 7 and order the Farmer's Omelette, which is at least 2,000 calories, and it lasts them the whole day," says Salomon. "I won't have to get up at 5 a.m. anymore, but I sure am going to miss everybody."



STAYING RIGHT HERE is Gary Rizzo, whose Miss Millie's vegetarian restaurant replaced the old Meat Market Coffeehouse and has now become a formidable new entry on the local food front.

It took Gary more than six months to wind through the city permit process and open his doors in January. He then got his full-service restaurant and deck permits in February. By the first week in March, there was a glowing review in the *Chronicle's* food section describing Miss Millie's as a "cozy restaurant with an Alice in Wonderland whimsy about it."

"It's amazing," says Gary. "We are getting anywhere from 200 to 260 customers a day." Gary thinks that the root vegetables which come on the side of every egg dish have created the most stir. "It's our alternative to home fries and is a combination of parsnips, turnips, yams, rutabagas, carrots, and fennel."

His personal favorite, by the way, is the Bean Casserole, which is scarlet runner beans, kale, tolu, and roasted tomatoes in a red wine broth with a breadcrumb crust.

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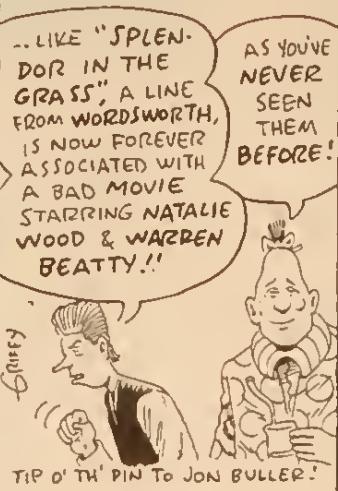
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ZIPPY



"BARTLETT-HOPPING"



Bill GRIFFITH

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MOVING INTO THE SPACE next to Walgreens recently vacated by Vasquez Optical is a paper products outlet called Paper Plus.

Says manager Phillip Schurman, the store will stock "paper, stationery, greeting cards, and party goods at substantially reduced prices." Phil is talking 10 to 70 percent off retail, he says, which is wholesale or below.

Paper Plus has two locations in Berkeley and one in Fairfield, and is opening another in Vacaville. So why here?

A former Noe Valley resident, Phil says he is excited to move back. "This is a really good neighborhood, and I know people will like getting quality products at discount prices."



SHORT SHIFTS: We're hearing more music in Noe Valley these days. Pianist Tom Lander has been spinning some jazz on Friday nights at Tien Fu on 24th Street, sometimes accompanied by a bass player. Also, Java 'n' Mor, the new coffeehouse at Clipper and Church, has started an open mike on Sundays from 6 to 9 p.m. The folk singers and acoustic guitarists are creating a mellow scene....

The Duncan Newburg Association (DNA) is gathering support and money (they are going to the city) for improvements to the right of way from the 27th Street dead-end down the hill to Noe. And in a related item, developer Doug Shaw, who is building condos at said dead-end, has agreed to contribute five grand to the project....

It looks as if, despite protests from the outer Church Street residents, merchants, and St. Paul's Church, Muní is still going to build its new handicapped ramps on Church between 29th and 30th, instead of in front of the senior center on 30th Street, where everyone agrees it belongs....

...Noe Valley Fit News is the name of a snazzy newsletter being published by Clipper Street personal fitness trainer Peter Zwerling, who has a 300-square-foot gym in his back yard....

...Noe poet A.D. Winans recently published a chapbook called *This Land Is Not My Land*, available from Green Bean Press, 22 Strathmore Village Drive, S. Setauket, NY 11720 (\$2.95, including postage and handling). His book on Bukowski, published by Beat Scene Press, England, should come out in May, he says....

...Did you know that Real Food Company has historically and Bell Market has just recently started giving customers who bring in their own bag a nickel discount?...

...This year's Noe Valley History Day will happen on Saturday, June 1, 2 to 5 p.m., at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Li-

brary on Jersey Street. The theme is "Noe Valley Through the Decades, in other words, from the beginning through the 1960s," says Paul Kantus, president of the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club, which had its beginnings in 1904. Paul adds that those of you who'd like to share your old photos and artifacts should give him a call at 647-3753.

If you can't make it to the hoopla on the 1st, the exhibit will be on display at the library the entire month of June.

Speaking of displays, some sterling *Voice* photography will adorn the walls at Yerba Buena Center through June 2. The photos, culled from our "Portrait of a Community" exhibit at the Ministry last year, are part of a larger Yerba Buena show called "Community Photo."

The curator had this to say about Home Sweet Noe: "Not unlike our expectation of life in more rural villages, Noe Valley is revealed as containing the same simultaneous everyday silliness, sentimentality, and mini-dramas." Well, I declare.

This hysterical column is now historical, and will conveniently fit in your cat litter box. Ciao for now. □

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Vacation Retreat: for Noe Valleyans. Calistoga/St. Helena area, three bedrooms, two baths, sleeps six (maximum), large decks with views of stream/forest; fireplace with wood supplied; 30 acres, trails, all-year stream, koi pond; \$250/two-night weekend; \$275/three-night weekend; \$75/night mid-week, two-night minimum; \$500/week; \$1,500/month; 10 percent discount to all repeat guests. 647-3052.

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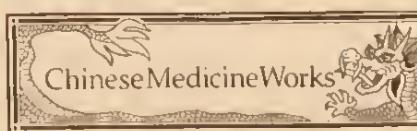
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Introductory Evening for the Rudolf Steiner College San Francisco Waldorf teacher training program. Saturday, April 20, at 7:30 p.m. at the San Francisco Waldorf School, 2938 Washington St. (between Broderick and Divisadero). The San Francisco Waldorf teacher training program is a three-year, part-time program that includes foundation studies in anthroposophy and studies in Waldorf pedagogy leading to certification for Waldorf teaching. The program meets on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings from September through May at the San Francisco Waldorf School and for summer sessions (four weeks each for three summers) at the Santa Cruz Waldorf School. For information contact the San Francisco office at (415) 331-8879.

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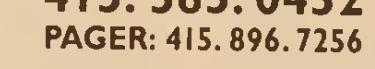
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VALLEY OF THE DOGS

Elephants To Raze Sanchez Hill

By Hannibal Barske

Late Thursday night, the combined People, Merchants, and Friends of Noe Valley (P-MURF) sealed the fate of the longstanding Sanchez Hill. In a surprise 596 to 595 decision, P-MURF ruled to raze the hill flat as a pancake at 12:01 a.m. on April 1, thereby putting an end to all the bickering between developers and residents on "Battle Mountain."

Unless a last-minute stay of leveling is issued by the Board of Demolition Appeals, 63 elephants will be unleashed at the designated time, and starting from 21st Street at Guerrero, will systematically stomp the hill flat.

Unfortunately for Sanchez Hill residents, their homes and personal possessions will also be smashed. "This is an outrage," sputtered Sanchez homeowner John Denver. "I didn't know about this plan until I saw the hang-tag on my front doorknob, and I've just paid to haul two truckloads of personal junk to the dump. If one of those P-MURFs had warned me, I could have saved the cost of a U-Haul."

Hill Street tree surgeon Monica Henchwoman was more upset about the fate of the trees, rats, and other indigenous wildlife inhabiting the hill. "If they flatten that hill, hundreds of birds and billions of bugs will be homeless," said Henchwoman, who had already handcuffed herself to a shrub in protest.

Many neighborhood residents, however, are delighted with the ruling. "That hill blocked my sun every afternoon," said George Hamilton of Dolores Street. "This year I'll be able to get a really good tan."

Sir Edmund Hillary of 21st Street is also enthusiastic. "I've put all the aluminum cans I've been saving out to be stomped. Those elephants will save me a lot of work." □



Bagels Are Big in Noe Valley. Last month 10,000 bagels were trucked and bused in to Noe Valley from as far away as Kansas to satisfy the seemingly insatiable hunger of Noe Valleons. The increased demand was caused by a report linking regular bagel consumption to immortality. In a carefully monitored, double-blind study of five neighborhood residents, those who ate at least three bagels a day for the past two weeks are still alive.

Photo by Charlie Tuna

Willie Weds Wendy

Editor's Note: As most of you already know, newly elected Mayor Willie Brown married Wendy Paskin, former wife of former Mayor Frank Jordan, on April 1 at Holy Bagels Tabernacle Church on Church Street. For those who were unable to attend the nuptials, here's an eyewitness account by Voice Society Page Editor Muffin Konecky.

The bride was radiant in a sesame-seed beaded, lemon chiffon gown by Christian Dior of Paris, bustier by Frederick's of Hollywood, and a long train by Lionel of Cleveland.

The groom was debonair in a Navy blue cutaway coat by Giorgio Armani, pleated throwaway trousers by Victor's

Secret, and a silk fallaway jumper by Hardaway of Oakland. (He was seated on a small rollaway table.) Best Man Wilkes Bashford was resplendent in the "grunge" look—a rumpled plaid leisure suit courtesy of Classy Sweats.

The wedding party also included Brown family members Rita Mae Brown, Murphy Brown, Buster Brown, Denise Brown, and "Bad, Bad" Leroy Brown. Ring bearer Charlie Brown wore a tasteful yellow shirt with a jagged black stripe running around it. Matron of Honor Helen Gurley Brown wore a plain brown wrapper.

Godfather James Brown provided the music, including the Wedding March ("Do, Do, Do, Da, Da, Da"), "Love the Mayor You're With," "Splish-Splash," and "Go Away, Little Frank."

The gala event was catered by Stars, Chez Panisse, Postrio, Lulu's, Firefly, and Herb's Fine Foods.

The nondenominational, wheelchair-accessible, gender-neutral ceremony was performed by a priest, a minister, a rabbi, a mullah, a shaman, two day-care professionals, a wise old woman, and the black sheep of the family, Jerry Brown.

After the ceremony the clerics formed a pentagram, and the marriage was consummated on the spot, for Pay-Per-View.

The happy couple departed the church in a flurry of brown rice, thrown unfortunately all at once and in a 50-pound sack by an unidentified nude former mayor with a receding hairline.

The groom issued this statement: "We thank all our friends here in Noe Valley for sharing this wonderful day with us. As most of you are aware, my new wife and I have been deeply in love ever since, well, that shower incident...but, of course, she insisted we wait until the runoff election results were in. "Lucky for Wendy, Roberta Achtenberg fell behind in the polls, or she'd be a domestic partner today." □



INSET BY PAT JOHNSON STUDIOS/BILLIE DOUGLAS

Almost Cut My Hair: Seventies troubadours Crosby, Stills, and Nash reunited for a concert on Jersey Street last month, to benefit the Noe Valley Library's preschool story time. Photo montage by Chuck Kennard

Warm Welcome for Crack House

By Mellow Norden

There appears to be little or no neighborhood opposition to the latest enterprise planning to occupy the storefront vacated by Cafe Sanchez at Sanchez and Cesar Salad streets.

Ruth's Chris Crack House, part of a worldwide chain of cocaine carryout huts, was anonymously Feb. 30 by the City Planning Commission. Our Noe Valley outlet, which will sell the dangerous drug in rock, powder, or Lick-'em-adé form—packaged either "to go" or to enjoy on the premises in a state-of-the-art, soundproofed, senssurround den—will open at noon on Tax Day, April 15.

Even though most previous tenants have faced fierce resistance from local residents, Ruth's Chris Crack easily won the blessing of the three largest neigh-

Continued on Page 2

Inside This Issue

- Willie Brown to Noe Valley: Dress up or Else!
- Residents Ask City to Rename Month of March—"Too Military"
- Hairnets Now Required on Internet
- Anti-Nuke Board of Supes Sends French Toilets, French Fries Back to France
- Little Cesar's Chavez Pizza Opens on Army Street
- Gold Discovered at Gallery of Jewels

Ruth's Chris Crack

Continued from Page 1

borhood groups: the East & West of Castro's Cuba Club, the Noe Valley Merchant Marines Association, and the Mafia.

Said Gertie Tuschues, president of Friends, Romans, and Countrywo/men of Noe Valley, "We were emphatic that we didn't want another restaurant or coffeehouse in that spot, particularly if it would block the sidewalk with tables and chairs. We also have a quota on eateries in Noe Valley, which, thank God, the Planning Department is finally enforcing."

"Although we were skeptical at first," she continued, "the crack house bent over backwards and met all our criteria, so we just couldn't say no."

Ruth's Chris Crack House is equally high on Noe Valley. "First of all, Noe Valley has a lot of addictive personalities, and it doesn't have a single licensed crack house...to our knowledge," says franchise owner/manager Faye Resnick. "Also, our patrons are attracted to our tip-top product line. Food is not on their minds, so we won't be serving any," she noted.

Resnick also pointed out that the chain's customers were busy, white-collar professionals "with better things to do than loll around on the sidewalk."

To alleviate potential parking problems, Ruth's Chris plans to offer 24-hour valet parking. The shop also will have a "quick-pick-me-up" window, staffed by a nurse skilled in CPR. As to the look of the storefront, "it won't be blue," Resnick said.

Reached at Ruth's Chris Crack corporate offices in Milpitas, founder Buzz Felony said, "We've been sniffing the profitable waters of the neighborhood for a long time now, and look forward to providing a much-needed community service. Our grand opening will feature plenty of free samples. It's the least we can do to ensure repeat business from our new neighbors."

He also noted a side benefit to the operation moving into Noe Valley. "I guarantee that Prozac consumption will go way down in this area as soon as we open. You can quote me on that!" □

JUNK MAIL

Chain of Fools

Editor:

This letter has been sent to you for good luck. It has been sent around the neighborhood nine times, and now it is in your hands. You will receive good luck within four days of receiving this letter, provided that you, in turn, follow instructions.

This is no joke. Do not send money, as fate has no price. Do not keep this letter. It must leave your hands within an hour and a half.

The chain comes from Alvarado Street, and was written by an anonymous resident. Since it must tour the neighborhood, you must make 50 copies and send them to your friends and associates within the boundaries of Noe Valley. Soon you will get a surprise. This is true—even if you are not superstitious.

Do note the following: José de Jesus Noe received this chain in 1853. He forgot it had to leave his hands in 1 1/2 hours, and was forced to sell his entire rancho. Nine years later, he died.

In 1987 the letter was received by a young woman on Sanchez Street. It was very faded and barely readable. She promised that she would retype the letter

and send it on, but she set it aside to do it later. She was plagued with ants in her kitchen. She finally typed the letter as she had promised and the ants went away.

Remember—send no money. Do not sign this. It works!

The Unabomber
Address withheld by request

Do It for the Children

Editor:

My name is Jeffy R. Penguin and I am 10 years old. I am here to ask you to move the San Francisco Zoo and Pier 39 to Noe Valley. These are two of my favorite places to go, and I know I'm not the only child who feels this way.

Also I would like a Chuck E. Cheese restaurant on 24th Street so the children like me will have a place to eat, when we are tired of seeing the monkeys or getting our parents to buy us stuff at the Disney Store. None of the restaurants here have indoor playgrounds, which every child enjoys. Let's open these businesses in Noe Valley as our ancestors would have wanted for generations to come.

Jeffy R. Penguin
Navy Street



Have You Seen This Fat?

This five-pound globule of fat, long a cautionary fixture in the window of Sanchez Street's diet emporium Lite Life, was stolen last week. Neighbors gave a general description of the thief: he or she was dressed in black, but seemed to be carrying a little extra weight around the middle. Officer Lois Pillow has set up checkpoints at various neighborhood locations, where she is stopping and frisking drivers, pedestrians, and bench-warming slackers. "If they seem a tad chunky, I ask them where they got the weight and how long they've had it," she said. "If I see a pint of Double Rainbow or a sack of potato chips in their bag, I let them go, because their fat has been acquired legitimately." Meanwhile, neighborhood fat collector Liz Taylor made an impassioned plea for the return of the fat, which she had recently donated. Photo by Charles Laughton

POLICE BLEAT

By Officer Karen

Saturday, 2:38 p.m.: A caller reported two suspicious people standing in a driveway on Jersey. Police questioned the couple and found they were Pacific Heights residents. They were asked to vacate the premises immediately and given directions to Union Street.

Monday, 7:32 a.m.: A 30th Street resident reported finding a sack of unorderd poppyseed bagels on her front steps. Using the Jaws of Life, police extracted the two-pound sack and removed it to a picnic table at Day Street Park. After ingesting the bagels, the bomb squad determined they were not a threat.

Wednesday, 8:35 p.m.: Police arrested six unarmed picketers in front of Tongue Sing Food who were protesting on the grounds that carryout places discriminate against the armless.

Thursday, 6:15 p.m.: Police responded to reports of a sinkhole at 25th Street. Workout that trapped an exceptionally large customer who had been using the stairmaster. Paramedics treated Warren Hinckle on the scene, after he was lifted by helicopter out of the hole.

Friday, 3:15 p.m.: Two real estate agents reported finding the Shroud of Turin, Jimmy Hoffa, Amelia Earhardt, and Judge Crater buried in the sandbox at Douglass Playground. Police investigated and found nothing unusual.

April Fool's 1996

This newspaper may contain scenes of violence, nudity, and language unsuitable for sensitive human beings.

Editors
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Tharp, Karen Topakian, and Jane
Underwood

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including:
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POME

THE PIGEON

By T. S. Barske

*I have heard the pigeons singing each to each
I do not think that they will sing to me.*

Once upon a midnight creepy, while I dozed, pooped and sleepy,
Over many a sensational and grisly paperback of true crime,
While I shuddered, faintly slumping, suddenly there came a bumping,
As of someone rudely thumping, thumping in a four-four time.
'Tis some clipoarder, I muttered, thumping like a white-faced mime,
Merely this and nothing more.

Open here I flung the window, when with much flapping into,
Boldly hopped a greedy pigeon, like the ones just up the street.
Not a feeble excuse made he, even though he quite dismayed me,
But with lice and mites and fleas, looked for crumbs around my feet.
Looked for crumbs from cheesy nachos that had dropped around my feet.
Looked for crumbs, and nothing more.

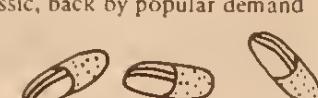
"Scram!" said I, "You flying vermin!" I yelled as loud as Ethel Merman.
"Get your dander out of my air and get your feet off my clean desk!"
This is no place for a pigeon!" (and my voice filled with derision),
You're against my religion! Shoo! And quit this rude burlesque!
Go someplace in southern Italy where they think you're picturesue!"
Quoth the pigeon, "Okay."

Bird-lover T. S. Barske lives a stone's throw away from the Pigeon Lady.

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WHILE STOCKS LAST

That Blue Place Gets Green Light

By Anne of Green Gates

For years now, that blue place on the corner of Sanchez and Duncan has stood empty, singing a siren song to neighborhood entrepreneurs dreaming about the prospect of making easy green stuff off the bagel-and-latte crowd.

Then in late 1995, culinary engineers Spalding Gray and Lorne Green bought the property, with hopes of opening a Red Chinese Restaurant. Logically, they planned to call it That Blue Place.

However, city officials and a small mob of pitchfork-wielding Sanchez Street neighbors made Gray and Green jump through a number of flaming hoops before giving the go-ahead to their new establishment. "We were informed by the Planning Department that we could only offer outdoor table service when the pigeons were in flight," complained Green, "and our coffee permit was only valid on days beginning with the letter R."

"It occurred to us that maybe the color of the restaurant was the problem," said Gray, "but then we got all caught up in that coffee permit thing, and the color issue sort of faded."

So two weeks ago, Gray and Green approached neighborhood opponents and offered to change the color of the place from its longstanding blue.

Princess Dye, a Duncan Street resident and the leader of the opposition to That Blue Place, was tickled pink at the idea of a color change.

"Frankly, I never liked blue," she said, "especially that shade they picked. I pre-



Sleepy Ol' Church Street. Voice photographer Najib Joe Hakim captured this peaceful moment at St. Paul's a few hours after the ouster of Father — Hey, what was that? Oh no, not again! Oh, my God! IT'S THE BIG ONE! Run! No, get under the desk! Look out for Oooooo-weeeeeh-oooooooo! Meeeeeeeeeeeeeeeep. This is the emergency broadcast system. This is not a test. Repeat. This is not a test.

ferred rust and mauve. I'm a fall person."

Green, Gray, and Dye hired independent color consultant Hue Grant to supply them with a large box of crayons and current information on politically correct color choices. "You don't want to even consider Indian Red, Chinese White, or Prussian Blue. And forget about Flesh," Hue advised.

The solution finally came from a Fall 1993 Tweeds catalog that Gray found in his "To Do" pile. "I was looking for my other sock, and I saw the catalog. And it just hit me like a truck—aubergine!" said Gray. Green and Dye were also enthusiastic about the dusty reddish-purplish color.

"It's not plum, and yet it's not violet," explained Dye. "It's just perfect."

The Board of Permit Appeals approved, and now we can look forward to dinners at That Aubergine Place in the very near future. □

Colander

April 1: In celebration of HOMELESS HISTORY WEEK, Joe Mendicant reads from his bestseller, *What Color Is Your Cardboard Box Shelter?* 11 pm. Wells Fargo ATM.

April 1: FRIENDS of Noe Valley will guest-star on the NBC sitcom *Friends* in an episode titled, "What's for Dessert?" Thursday, 8 pm.

April 1: Celebrate the merger of Posh Bagel of 24th Street, Osh BAGEL of 24th Street, and Kosh Bagel of 24th Street at OshKoshB'Posh BAGELS of 24th Street. 1 pm. (-)=X000.

April 1: Attend Willie's Wacky SUMMER CAMP in Golden Gate Park. Bring bullet-proof vest, pepper spray, bodyguard, sleeping bag. Meet in bushes near Discarded Plastic Bagoreum at Haigh and Stanyan, 11 pm.

April 1: Anne Sexton signs her BOOK *Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Langley-Porter*. 8 pm. The Prozac Club. 3300 Mission.

April 1: The Noe Valley Film Series presents *Revenge of the Sanchez Hilltop People* and *Woman in the Tree*. 7 pm. 1021 Sancho Panza.

Crass Ads

Bagelini Yoga. Learn all the Prunayama poses including how to make yourself into a pretzel. Call 555-OUCH

Got a Brown Thumh? Our plant loss support group can ease the guilt. Tuesdays, noon. Plantar's Wart Nursery, 24th and Church.

Second Spammish Cyber Church is now online. Nonstop services, day and night. Baptisms, weddings, funerals, bingo, exorcisms. Chat rooms (no monks, please!) Virtual snake handling (only available in CA, OR, and WA). [Http://www.jesussavesaluminumcans.com](http://www.jesussavesaluminumcans.com).

Air Traffic Controlling for Dummies. Barely used textbook, \$24.95. 555-BLIP.

The Valley's Own Softest Rock Station, KNOE 109.3, plays hits you can barely hear.

Writers in the Buff. Interested in getting down to the bare essentials of writing? We meet each week in someone's home and we write in the nude. Happy hour follows each meeting. E-mail Wendy@aol.com for time/place.

Free Pap Schmears. Obgyn Bagels 24th St.

Readers Poll

Who Are You?

Over the last year, there have been many issues that have polarized the residents of our fair neighborhood:

—Is building a four-story luxury housing complex worth sacrificing a few scraggly trees and a scenic vista atop Noe Valley's grandest hillock?

—If you own a car, doesn't that automatically mean you own the parking space in front of your house?

—Should a blue restaurant be allowed on a green residential street?

In an effort to put our ear to the pulse of the heart of the neighborhood, the Noe Valley Voice is conducting a comprehensive survey of our readers. Please take a few minutes to give us your candid responses:

1. Noe Valley's biggest problem is:

- a. Lack of parking
- b. No French toilets
- c. Gang warfare
- d. Mad cow disease

2. What do we have too many of in Noe Valley?

- a. Coffee shops
- b. Baby strollers
- c. Pigeons
- d. Neighborhood newspapers

3. Which chain store would you like to see open in Noe Valley?

- a. Trader Joe's
- b. Wal-Mart
- c. Red Lobster
- d. Hooters

4. What's the best use of the Spanish Church property next to Bell Market?

- a. A community garden
- b. A pitbull shelter
- c. A maximum security prison
- d. The ballpark

5. What item should Herb's add to its menu to stay in tune with the times?

- a. Bagels
- b. Smoothies
- c. A magnifying glass
- d. Liver

6. What sort of live entertainment would be acceptable in the neighborhood?

- a. Poetry readings
- b. Standup comedy
- c. Mormon Tabernacle Choir
- d. Calf-roping

7. Who should be allowed to have parking permits?

- a. The disabled
- b. People with no garages
- c. 24th Street employees and shop owners
- d. Me

8. What improvements would you make to Muni?

- a. Reserved seats
- b. Meal service
- c. Metal detectors
- d. Flotation devices

9. Where would you like to see the Muni ramps placed?

- a. On Church Street
- b. On 30th Street
- c. In front of Thrasher magazine
- d. At SFO

10. Where would you like to see developers placed?

- a. On top of Old Smokey
- b. Under the volcano
- c. Beyond the sea
- d. Over there

11. What is your opinion of trees in the neighborhood?

- a. They're okay if they know their place
- b. Some of my best friends are trees
- c. Not in my back yard
- d. If they don't like it here, they should go back to Greenland

12. Who should be allowed to play at Noe Courts park?

- a. Children
- b. Dogs
- c. Heavy-metal bands
- d. Mountain lions

13. Are you as upset as we are that some bureaucrat decided to paint over that beautiful pink paint on James Lick School?

Yes

14. Are you willing to donate time and money to ensure that the school is repainted pink, and also to defray the cost of producing this questionnaire?

Name: _____

VISA/Mastercard: _____

Amount: _____

Scoring: Give yourself 1 point for every a answer, 2 points for every b; 3 points for every c; and 4 points for every d. If you scored:

0 to 13 points = You may have attention deficit disorder. Go back and try again.

14 to 56 points = You are a typical Noe Valley resident.

56 and above = You have a tendency to cheat. Watch it.

To aid in our analysis of the results, please fill out the following demographic data:

Age:

- a. Young
- b. Middle aged
- c. Menopausal
- d. Womanopausal

Race:

- a. White
- b. Anglo-Saxon
- c. WASP
- d. Other white: _____

Residence:

- a. Own home
- b. Apartment
- c. Web site
- d. Pajamas

We know you work out of your home, but what exactly is your occupation:

- a. CEO
- b. White collar
- c. No collar
- d. Artist of some sort

Survey Results: We will do our best to keep your answers confidential. However, we are not responsible if they get into the hands of Warren Hinckle.